

Education Leaders’ Opinions of Parks and Recreation:

A Survey of California School Superintendents

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Summary of Survey Findings

Introduction

The California Department of Parks and Recreation Planning Division is charged with collecting, analyzing and disseminating relevant data on current trends and opinions on parks and recreation. This document reports on the findings of a survey of California's public school district superintendents' opinions of public parks and recreation programs and facilities. The Division conducted this survey in response to requests from local park and recreation agencies. They wanted to know how the people who make or influence public policy view recreation facilities and activities. School superintendents constitute one of the groups of opinion leaders queried. The survey requested their thoughts on:

- perceptions of community attitudes towards parks and recreation
- park facilities and recreation programs in their local area
- local schools' experience with joint use and partnership arrangements for recreation

The results of this survey of school district superintendents can be viewed together with responses from surveys of other opinion group leaders in 2002. This survey and those of the other groups—state legislators, mayors, chairs of county boards of supervisors, county executives, and chambers of commerce—are intended as tools for understanding how California's political and economic leaders perceive the parks and recreation facilities and programs within their communities.

Survey Methodology

All of California's 1,043 public school district superintendents received survey forms. Over 70% of the superintendents responded to the survey instrument. This high response rate provides a high level of confidence in the results. Because the survey asked for county location information, both statewide, regional, and metropolitan area results are included in the analysis. Results are not reported by county, due to confidentiality of the survey information. Instead, regional information is reported by groupings of county results according to the degree of urbanization in a county and according to geographic region of the state. The urbanization pattern was segmented per U.S. Census determinations of county status as metropolitan (large and small metropolitan areas) or non-metropolitan. The latter status is widely regarded as a means to identify rural characteristics of an area. Segmentation of counties into geographic regions began with groupings commonly used for several program purposes in public policy. The counties not normally in those associations were further segmented in this analysis as needed for convenience.

Survey Findings

The survey demonstrated that California's school superintendents strongly support parks and recreation. The survey data showed the superintendents themselves think park facilities and recreation programs are worthwhile benefits for local communities and indicated their belief that community residents hold similar positive opinions. The data also revealed the superintendents understand that schools themselves are community recreation assets. An overwhelming 94% of superintendents reported some kind of public use of their school district

facilities for recreation. This typically occurs in some kind of joint-use arrangement with local park and recreation service providers in the public or private sector. The survey also revealed that, for some communities, schools are the only public facilities available for recreation.

The survey of superintendents contained several questions that were also asked of the other opinion group leaders (see page 29, Comparisons with 2002 Government and Business Leaders' Surveys). The survey data indicated general alignment of the superintendents' opinions with those of the other groups, with responses generally favorable to parks and recreation.

The survey found superintendents believe in the importance of the recreation facilities and services offered in their communities and recreation role of schools. Other findings include:

- Superintendents regard schools as a place for positive youth activities and as a central link for the community.
- Superintendents are strongly inclined to make school land and facility assets available for the community in partnership with other entities,
- Superintendents and their constituents share similar values about parks and recreation.
- Regional variations and other differences exist among large and small metropolitan areas and non-metropolitan areas.
- Superintendents support the establishment or improvement of park and recreation facilities or services for those parts of the state where such facilities or services are lacking. The survey's discovery of this issue implies a need for more study.

Knowledge of the attitudes and opinions of the community leaders will better enable park and recreation professionals to work with those who are in a position to provide (or withhold) critical political, civic and financial support needed for park facilities and recreation programs. By examining these surveys, park and recreation professionals can learn how to best develop, modify and present their organization's efforts to mesh more closely with the spectrum of views held by these various constituencies.

Project Background

Project Overview

In 2001, the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Planning Division met with several public agencies and non-profit administrators to discuss research areas of immediate concern and to develop a plan to address these concerns. Shortly thereafter a technical assistance program was developed and implemented. Some of agencies and administrators requested information on the opinions of elected and appointed policy leaders concerning public park facilities and recreation programs. This document represents part of DPR's response to that request.

Beginning with the question, "What do community and public policy leaders think about the benefits and values provided by public park facilities and recreation areas?" the Planning Division surveyed six California leader groups. These small groups of people—locally elected officials and certain appointed or non-elected individuals—exercise tremendous influence on the public recreation offerings of cities, counties and special districts. Because of this, the park and recreation professionals' success is linked to the attitudes of these key individuals.

The Planning Division has issued reports summarizing the survey responses of policy leaders, both elected and appointed, on their opinions of park facilities and recreation programs. The first volume, *California Leaders' Opinions of Parks and Recreation 2002* reported the findings from surveys of California's Legislators, Mayors, County Executives, and the Chairs of the County Boards of Supervisors. The second volume, *Business Leaders' Opinions of Parks and Recreation: A Survey of California Chambers of Commerce 2002*, conveyed the results of a survey sent to the leaders of California's chambers of commerce. Both documents report that the leaders see positive benefits in California's park facilities and recreation programs. This document, *School District Leaders' Opinion of Park and Recreation: A Survey of California School Superintendents of Schools 2002*, is the last in the series of opinion leader surveys. This set of surveys will be complemented by a forthcoming assessment of the opinion of California residents, *Public Opinion and Attitudes Survey* to be released in 2003.

Favorable public policy decisions depend on whether local opinion leaders see value in public park amenities and recreational programs. When leaders appreciate parks and recreation, their support extends to the many groups with which the leaders affiliate and to their actions within the broad political and social network. The reverse of this is also true—when these decision leaders see limited value in public parks and recreation they provide only minimal support.

There are well over 8,000 schools in California, organized into 1,043 public school districts. These schools provide education for just over 6 million children in kindergarten through 12th grade. Beyond their fundamental role in classroom education, these schools also provide opportunities for recreation for local communities. When public schools are in session, they provide the 17% of

One superintendent wrote:

"We have very limited resources; we have a huge need for parks and recreation in our (school) district."

Californians who are of school age with places for structured and unstructured play and physical education. When school is out, school facilities often continue as venues for learning as well as serving as *de facto* community recreation resources.

The public values school grounds during before and after-school hours as places where people play on swings, throw a Frisbee, hit some fly balls, or walk the dog. Communities find public school facilities convenient for soccer leagues, basketball games and public meetings. Sometimes school grounds represent the only open space available for recreation in the area. The school's recreational function takes on additional importance when no public recreation agency serves the area.

In most communities, parks and schools work together. In such cases, the school and a local recreation provider typically form a collaborative arrangement. With such a pact for joint use, the two public entities make the recreation features of the school available to the public and/or agree to have the parks fulfill certain recreation and learning needs of school-age children. Sometimes joint-use agreements allow the agencies to share ownership and operation of a facility, such as a multi-use room on school premises or a nature area in a park adjacent to the school.

The Department surveyed the key people who oversee schools at the local level—the school district superintendents. Given their responsibility for these important community facilities, the superintendents hold significance as opinion leaders. They make essential day-to-day decisions about the management of school district facilities and delegate such decisions to the school principals and other staff. These functions empower superintendents to wield significant influence in making recommendations to school district governing boards and in serving on or guiding community advisory committees and parent-teacher associations. As the survey data confirmed, superintendents also care about making positive differences in the lives of children and the quality of communities.

About the Survey

The voluntary survey of California school district superintendents was conducted in October of 2002. They were asked to provide their sense of values placed on parks and recreation by residents of the local area. They were also asked to give their own opinions about parks and recreation facilities. In addition, they were queried about the collaborative arrangements their districts might have regarding parks and recreation. The complete survey form is available in appendix C. An impressive 70% of superintendents gave their time to answer the questions. They were promised confidentiality for their responses. Every effort has been made to respect this promise. For this reason, no mention is made in this analysis of the specific names or locations of the responding school districts. The analysis instead considers the responses according to groups of counties as well as on a statewide basis.

The counties were also grouped for the survey analysis according to geographic region. They were sorted into groups that follow the conventions of broad public policy areas like transportation, housing, or air quality. Details on this grouping are available in appendix B. Six regions, containing 33 counties, were identified:

- Southern California (the Southern California Association of Governments' area)

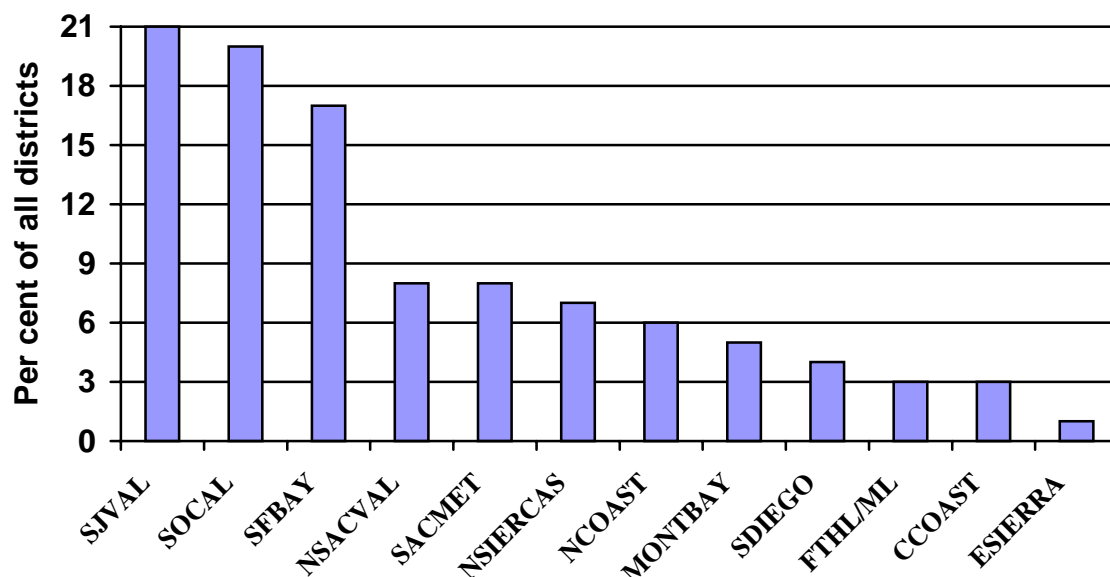
- San Diego (the San Diego Association of Governments' area)
- San Francisco Bay (the Association of Bay Area Governments' area)
- Sacramento Metropolitan (the Sacramento Area Council of Governments' area)
- San Joaquin Valley (corresponding to the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin)
- Monterey Bay (the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments' area)

In addition, six other regional groups were devised for convenience in this analysis. These are clusters of counties assumed to have mutual geographic or local interests:

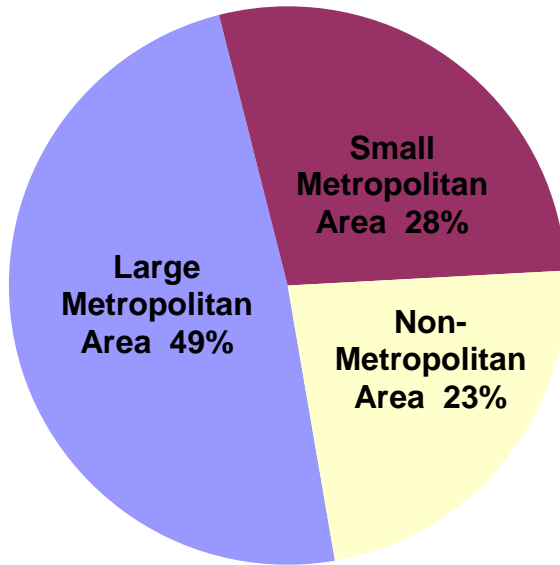
- North Coast (3 coastal counties south of the Oregon border plus Lake County)
- Central Coast (San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties)
- Northern Sacramento Valley (5 mostly agricultural counties north of the Sacramento area)
- Northern Sierra/Cascade (5 inland counties in the northernmost mountains)
- Foothill/Mother Lode (6 trans-Sierra or west slope Gold Rush counties)
- Eastern Sierra (3 high mountain counties adjoining Nevada)

The distribution of all California school districts within those regions is shown in the chart below. As the chart indicates, most school districts are found in the regions of the San Joaquin Valley, Southern California and the San Francisco Bay Area. The least amount of districts is found in the Eastern Sierra sub-state region.

DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS



Distribution of School Districts by Urbanization of County



In addition, the responses were grouped according to whether the school district was located in a large metropolitan area, small metropolitan area, or non-metropolitan area (see pie chart, left). The assignment of counties to such areas was determined from the U.S. Bureau of the Census data for 2000 concerning the metropolitan or non-metropolitan nature of California's counties.

Much of California is urbanized, including 34 of the 58 counties. Of the urbanized areas, the Census considers a county

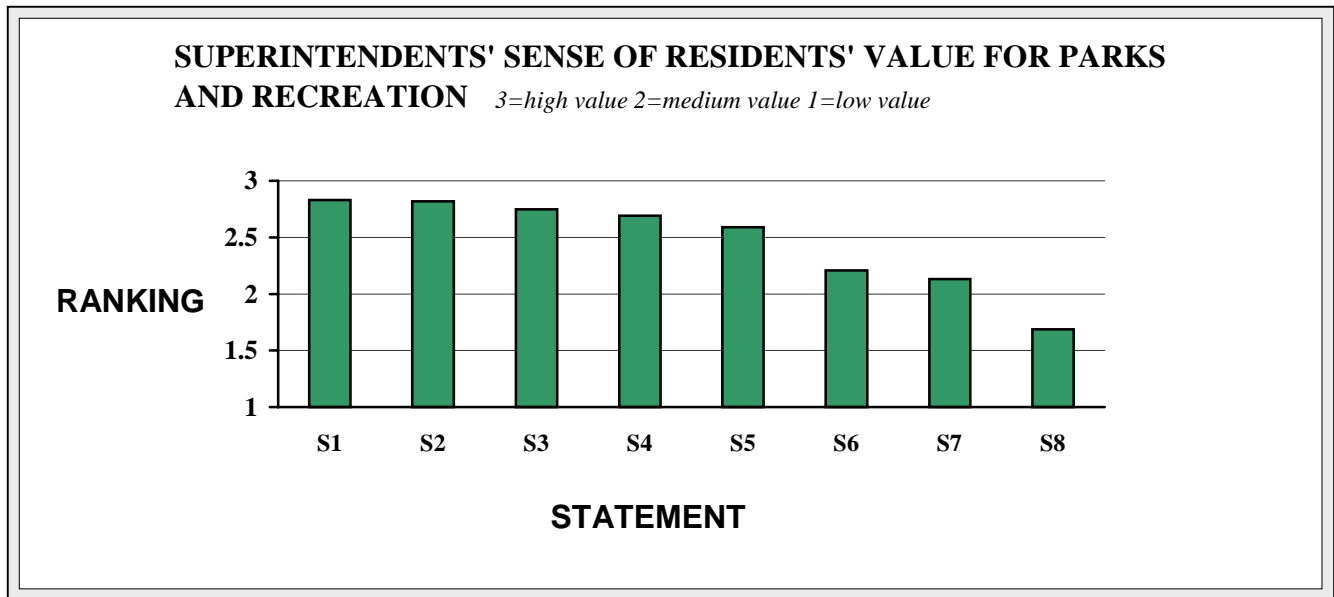
to be in a large metropolitan area if there are 1 million or more residents in the urban area. Almost half of California's school districts are located in the 21 counties that constitute the large metropolitan areas of the state. Metropolitan areas with less than 1 million residents are considered small metropolitan areas. The 13 counties that make up the state's small metropolitan areas contain 28% of the state's school districts. The remaining school districts are found in 24 counties with rural characteristics. The Census considered those counties to be in non-metropolitan areas due to the counties' smaller population sizes and relative disassociation from economic linkages with metropolitan areas.

The overall survey return rate was quite high, at 70%. The return rate for school districts in metropolitan areas was an even stronger 73%. At 65%, the return rate was also solid for the non-metropolitan area school districts. Return rates on a regional basis varied from a slight majority of superintendents in two regions to a high of 83% from superintendents in the Southern California region. For data analysis, these results translate to very high statistical confidence levels statewide and for all groups.

Opinion of Resident's Perspective on the Value of Parks and Recreation

Statewide Results

The survey asked superintendents for their views on how the students and families of their school district's area might perceive parks and recreation programs. The results presented below and in appendix A, tables 1 and 2-2h, show that superintendents felt the people in their districts regard parks and recreation programs as assets for their communities. Clear majority levels were revealed in response to these statements from all districts statewide. The rates ranged from 60% to 64%.



<i>Question: Please indicate your sense of the value parks and recreation programs hold for the residents of your community.</i>	Average ranking
S1. Team sports The opportunity for team sports and youth activities.	2.83
S2. Family fun Safe, wholesome and fun programs and park facilities that provide for family activities. For example, play areas, fishing piers, and pools.	2.82
S3. Sense of place Strengthening the community image and creating a sense of place.	2.75
S4. Exercise and personal development The opportunity for physical exercise, social and emotional development.	2.69
S5. After school programs The opportunity for after school programs or programs for youth at risk.	2.59
S6. Cultural celebrations Places to celebrate cultural unity/diversity (e.g., Cinco de Mayo festivals)	2.21
S7. Special populations Facilities and programs for special populations – elderly, disabled and low income.	2.13
S8. Jobs and income Creating jobs and generating income for communities and local businesses.	1.69

Of the potential values presented, superintendents perceived their community residents to highly value parks for:

- **opportunities for team sports and youth activities**
- **safe, wholesome and fun programs and facilities that provide for family activities**
- **strengthening the community image and creating a sense of place**
- **providing opportunities for physical exercise, social and emotional development**
- **after school programs or programs for youth at risk**

Superintendents felt residents see parks as having medium value concerning:

- **cultural unity and diversity**
- **service to elderly, disabled and low income populations**
- **creating jobs and generating income for communities and local businesses**

Regional Comparisons

These results were echoed by the regional data sets, though with some slight variations (see table, below). Superintendents rated the statement about **team sports** highly. Superintendents of the Sacramento Metropolitan and San Francisco Bay regions gave the highest average marks to the statement. The ratings were comparatively lower from the Foothill/Mother Lode and Northern Sierra/Cascade regions.

The superintendents also gave high values to the statement about **safe, wholesome and fun activities for families**. Those in the Sacramento Metropolitan area gave the highest ratings for this statement along with superintendents from the Eastern Sierra region. The lower ratings were reported from the Northern Sacramento Valley and Monterey Bay regions.

The statement about **community image and sense of place** got high scores as well. Its highest ratings came from the Eastern Sierra and Central Coast regions. For this statement, superintendents from the Foothill/Mother Lode and Northern Sacramento Valley regions gave the lowest ratings.

Another statement receiving marks for high value pertained to **exercise and personal development**. That statement was rated highest by the Eastern Sierra and San Francisco Bay region's superintendents. Its lowest ratings were reported by the respondents from the Foothill/Mother Lode and Northern Sierra/Cascade regions.

The statement about **after school programs or programs for youth at risk** was the final statement to receive high value statewide. The survey showed superintendents in the Eastern Sierra and Southern California regions provided the highest marks for the statement about **after school programs or programs for youth at risk**. The lower scores came from the Northern Sierra Cascade and Monterey Bay regions.

Superintendents reported moderate values for the statement about **cultural unity and diversity**. Responses for the statement varied widely, from a high value to a low-to-medium value. Superintendents of the Eastern Sierra and North Coast regions gave the higher scores. The lower scores were assigned by the Monterey Bay and Foothill/Mother Lode.

The statement about **service to elderly, disabled and low income populations** also received scores in the medium range. It gained higher marks from the Central Coast and North Coast regions' superintendents. Its lower ratings were given by the Foothill/Mother Lode and Monterey Bay regions.

Lastly, every region's superintendents ranked the statement about **jobs and generating income** last on their lists. For that statement, the highest marks came from the Eastern Sierra and Northern Sacramento Valley regions. Superintendents from the Central Coast and North Coast regions provided the lowest ratings.

Regional Variation in Superintendents' Perception of Residents' Values for Parks and Recreation		
	<i>Strongest in:</i>	<i>Less so in:</i>
HIGH VALUE		
• Team sports	Sacramento Metro, SF Bay	Foothill/Mother Lode, No. Sierra/Cascade
• Family fun	Sacramento Metro, Eastern Sierra	Monterey Bay, No. Sacramento Valley
• Sense of place	Eastern Sierra, Central Coast	Foothill/Mother Lode, No. Sacramento Valley
• Exercise and personal development	Central Coast, SF Bay	No. Sierra-Cascade, Foothill/Mother Lode
• After school programs	Eastern Sierra, Southern California	No. Sierra-Cascade, Monterey Bay
MEDIUM VALUE		
• Cultural unity / diversity	Eastern Sierra,** North Coast	Foothill/Mother Lode, Monterey Bay
• Serve elderly, disabled, low income users	North Coast, Central Coast	Foothill/Mother Lode, Monterey Bay
• Jobs and income	Eastern Sierra, No. Sacramento Valley	San Diego,* Monterey Bay
** assigned a high value *assigned a low value		

Metropolitan Comparisons

Analysis of the results of the data according to metropolitan area status (see chart, below) revealed a pattern of higher perceived valuation among superintendents from large metropolitan areas for all but two statements:

- **strengthening the community image and creating a sense of place**
- **creating jobs and generating income for communities and local businesses**

For three statements, superintendents from large metropolitan areas gave ratings clearly higher than did those from small metropolitan areas and non-metropolitan areas (whose ratings were about the same):

- **opportunities for team sports and youth activities,**
- **providing opportunities for physical exercise, social and emotional development**
- **after school programs or programs for youth at risk**

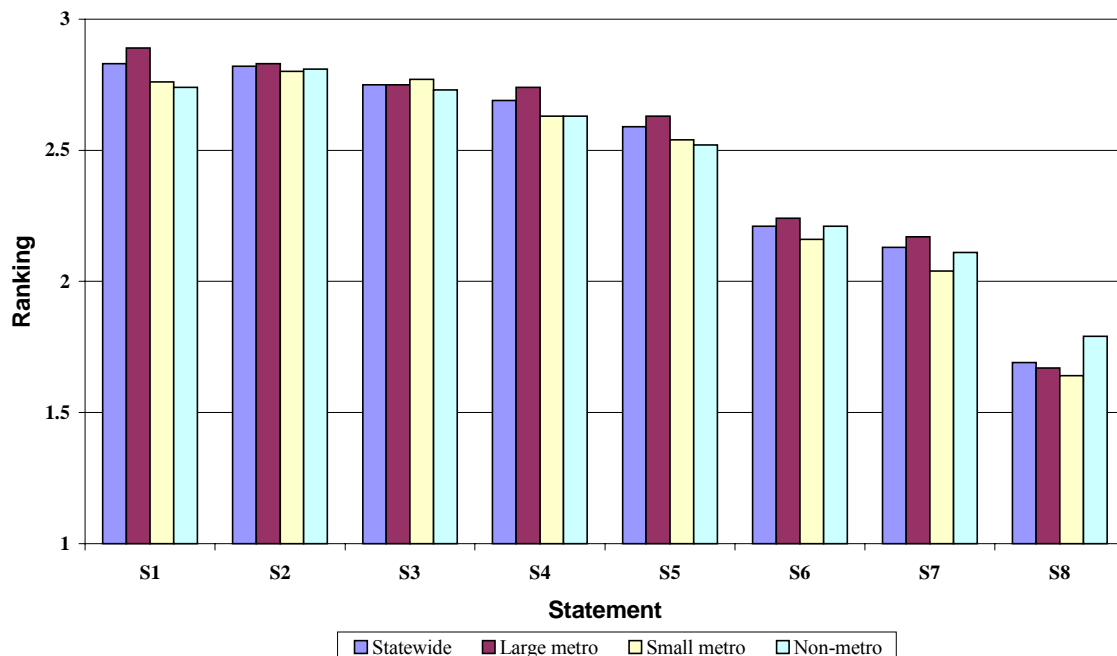
Compared to the other superintendents, those from small metropolitan areas gave lower ratings to two statements:

- **cultural unity and diversity**
- **service to elderly, disabled and low income populations**

Non-metropolitan area superintendents rated the statement about **creating jobs and generating income for communities and local businesses** well above the rating given by the other superintendents. Their sentiments about this statement were closer to a medium value, whereas the others expressed a lower value.

RANKING

Perception of Residents' Values by Metropolitan and Non-metropolitan Area Superintendents 3=high value 2=medium value 1=low value



Superintendents' Own Opinions of Parks and Recreation Facilities

Statewide Results

School superintendents were also asked for their own opinions about parks and recreation facilities. The results, presented in appendix A, tables 2 and 4-4h, show that superintendents support parks and recreation programs, with emphasis on how recreation facilities can help a community and the role of recreation in reducing crime and juvenile delinquency. There were high levels of response to these statements from all districts statewide, ranging from 64% to 68%.

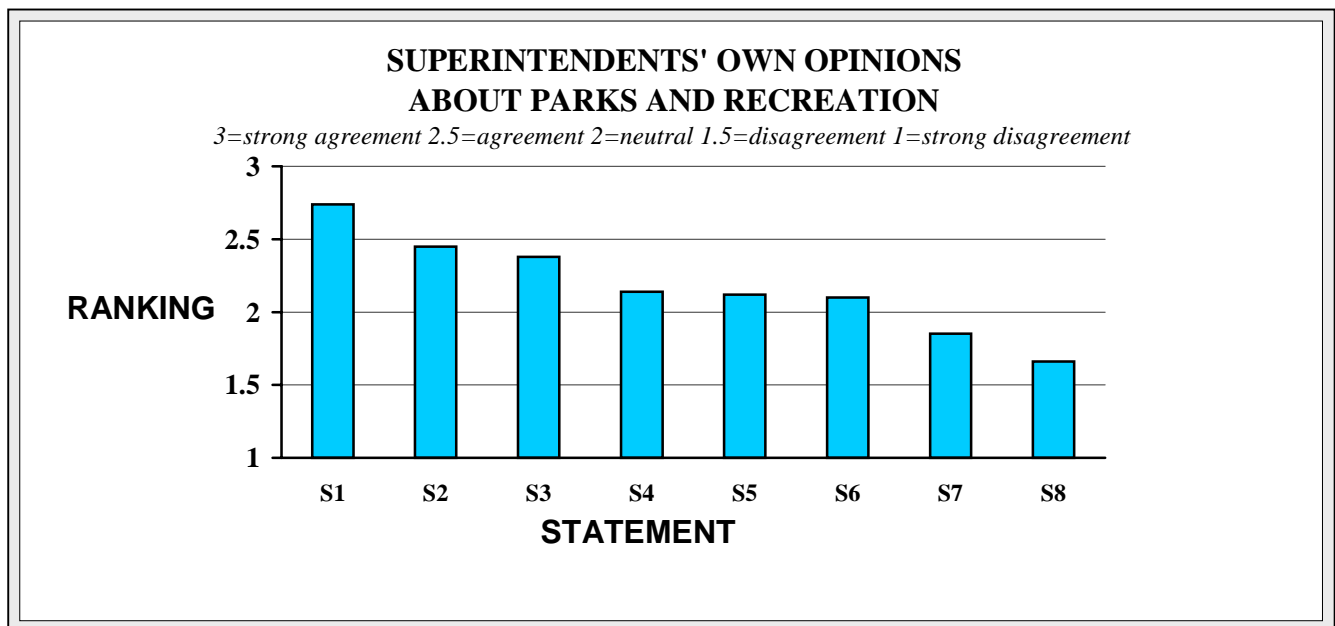
Superintendents strongly agreed with the statement that recreation areas and facilities **improve the quality of life**.

They expressed opinions nearly in agreement with the statements about:

- **reducing crime and juvenile delinquency**
- **recreation areas and facilities increasing the value of nearby property**

Superintendents tended to moderately disagree that there are **enough recreation areas and facilities available for convenient use**, but they conveyed neutrality as to:

- **parks and recreation programs playing an important role in the location decisions of businesses**
- **crowding at parks**
- **the role of parks in the local economy**
- **recreation areas and facilities' attraction of undesirable people or unwanted activities**



<i>Question: Following is a list of statements regarding local agency park and recreation facilities. What is your opinion?</i>	Average ranking
S1. Quality of life Recreation areas and facilities improve the quality of life for the residents of our school district.	2.74
S2. Crime and juvenile delinquency..... Recreation areas and programs help reduce crime and juvenile delinquency in our school district.	2.45
S3. Property values..... Recreation areas and facilities increase the value of nearby commercial and residential property.	2.33
S4. Location decisions of businesses..... The availability of park and recreation facilities and recreation programs plays an important part in the decision of businesses to locate in the area served by our school district.	2.14
S5. Crowded parks..... Public recreation areas and facilities are often too crowded when people want to use them.	2.12
S6. Jobs and economy..... Recreation areas and facilities create jobs in my community, helping its economy.	2.10
S7. Undesirables..... Recreation areas and facilities attract undesirable people and their unwanted activity.	1.85
S8. Enough parks..... There are enough public park and recreation areas and facilities available for convenient use within our school district.	1.66

Regional Comparisons

The statewide results were largely reflective of the regional results, but there were some regional differences (see table on page 13). The superintendents of the San Diego and San Francisco Bay regions, for example, gave the highest average marks to the statement about **quality of life**. The Northern Sierra/Cascade region had the highest percentage who expressed neutrality.

Superintendents from all regions clearly agreed with the statement about **crime and juvenile delinquency**. The highest marks came from the North Coast and San Diego regions. Superintendents from the Eastern Sierra and Foothill/Mother Lode regions had lower rates of agreement with the statement.

Superintendents moderately agreed overall about the **property values** statement. San Diego and Eastern Sierra superintendents gave this statement's higher ratings. The San Joaquin Valley reported considerably more disagreement than their counterparts elsewhere.

The statement about **business location decisions** mostly generated a neutral response. The Northern Sacramento Valley superintendents tended towards slight agreement with the statement, followed closely by those from the San Diego region. The Central Coast and Northern Sierra/Cascade regions had the highest portion in disagreement.

Predictably, the statement about **crowds at parks** got the highest ratings from the most populated parts of Southern California. Superintendents of the less-populated Eastern Sierra

and Northern Sierra/Cascade regions expressed disagreement with the statement.

Such a simple explanation could not be found for the statement about **jobs and the economy**. Overall, the superintendents were neutral on this statement. Those from the North Coast and Sacramento Metropolitan regions gave slightly higher scores than the others. The highest rates of disagreement with the statement were shown by superintendents of the Eastern Sierra and Northern Sierra/Cascade regions. Almost three-fourths of the San Diego region superintendents gave neutral responses.

The statement about parks being attractive for **undesirable people and unwanted activities** received its higher responses from the Foothill/Mother Lode and Southern California regions. The same statement got its lowest marks from superintendents in the Monterey Bay and Eastern Sierra regions, with the latter region tending to express disagreement.

The statement with the lowest average ratings concerned the supply of parks in the local area. Most superintendents disagreed that there are **enough parks**, including the San Diego region, with 84% giving that response. For the Foothill/Mother Lode, the least amount agreed with the statement, perhaps indicating parks there may be less plentiful. The Central Coast's superintendents split evenly, with half agreeing and half disagreeing with the statement. In the Eastern Sierra region, one-third of the respondents agreed and two-thirds did not.

Regional Variation in Superintendents' Own Opinions of Park Facilities		
	<i>Strongest in:</i>	<i>Less so in:</i>
STRONG AGREEMENT		
• Improve quality of life	San Diego,++ SF Bay Area	Eastern Sierra,+ Foothill/Mother Lode+
AGREEMENT		
• Reduce crime and delinquency	North Coast, San Diego	Eastern Sierra, Foothill/Mother Lode
• Increase property value	San Diego, Eastern Sierra	No. Sierra-Cascade,* San Joaquin Valley
NEUTRALITY		
• Influence business location decisions	No. Sacramento Valley,+ San Diego	Central Coast, No. Sierra-Cascade
• Too crowded	San Diego+ SoCal	Eastern Sierra,- No. Sierra Cascade-
• Positive impact on jobs and economy	North Coast, Sac Metro	Eastern Sierra, No. Sierra-Cascade
• Attract undesirable people and activities	Foothill/Mother Lode, SoCal	Eastern Sierra,- Monterey Bay
DISAGREEMENT		
• Existence of enough facilities	San Diego, Foothill/Mother Lode	Central Coast* Eastern Sierra*
++ <i>strongly agreed</i> + <i>agreed</i> * <i>neutral</i> - <i>disagreed</i> -- <i>strongly disagreed</i>		

Metropolitan Comparisons

The survey results revealed similar responses among the metropolitan and non-metropolitan area superintendents for statements other than the one about **crowding at parks**. Large metropolitan area superintendents were inclined to agree with that statement, while the others tended towards neutrality (see chart below).

Compared to the other superintendents, those from large metropolitan areas gave the highest ratings and those from non-metropolitan areas gave the lowest ratings for five statements:

- **improving the quality of life**
- **reducing crime and juvenile delinquency**
- **increasing the value of nearby property**
- **influencing the location decisions of businesses**
- **crowding at parks**

Superintendents from small metropolitan areas gave ratings higher than the others for statements about:

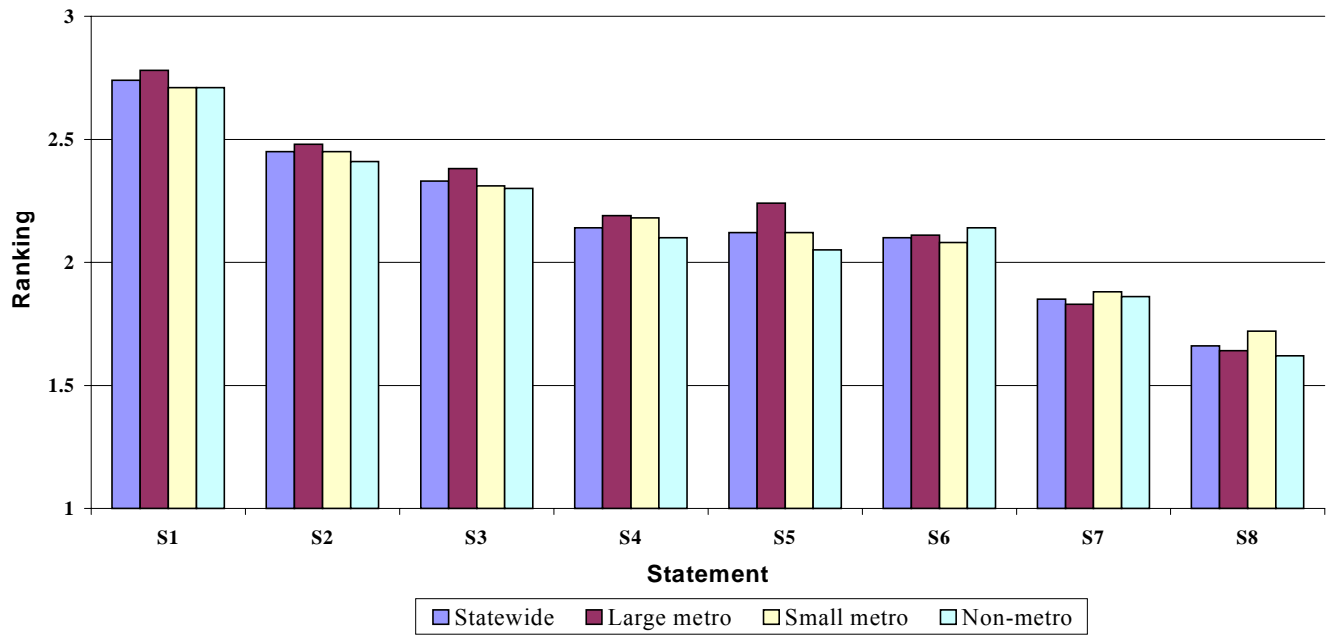
- **undesirable people or unwanted activities**
- **enough parks**
- **providing opportunities for physical exercise, social and emotional development**
- **after school programs or programs for youth at risk**

Compared to the other superintendents, those from small metropolitan areas gave lower ratings to two statements:

- **cultural unity and diversity**
- **service to elderly, disabled and low income populations**

The highest ratings for the statement about **creating jobs and helping the local economy** came from non-metropolitan area superintendents.

Metropolitan and Non-metropolitan Area Superintendents' Own Opinions of Parks and Recreation *3=strongly agree 2.5=agree 2=neutral 1.5=disagree 1=strongly disagree*



Joint Use of Facilities and Cooperation with Other Entities

Public access to school facilities helps meet community recreation needs and leads to service delivery efficiencies. The survey posed several questions about the superintendents' interest in and experience with joint use programs for recreation at the schools in their districts. Overall, they gave positive responses.

1. Allowing Recreation Access to Schools

(Appendix A, Tables 5 and 6)

Statewide Results

The first question asked whether public recreational use is permitted at school grounds and facilities, such as playgrounds, basketball courts and multi-purpose rooms. Statewide, a resounding 93% answered affirmatively concerning the schools in their district. Another 4% said they allow access at some, but not all, of their schools, leaving 3% who said no access is allowed. These findings show solid support for the use of schools as public recreation facilities.

Regional Comparisons

Superintendents representing 95% of all school districts said their schools allow full use. Superintendents from the Foothill/Mother Lode and Eastern Sierra regions reported the highest rates of restricted or partial use at 12% and 11% respectively. The highest percentage (6%) reporting that access is not allowed was from the San Joaquin Valley region.

Metropolitan Comparisons

Superintendents from large metropolitan areas cited the highest rate (99%) for allowing some level of use of school facilities for recreation. Small metropolitan areas reported the highest rate (5%) for denial of access.

2. Reasons Recreation Access to School Facilities is Allowed

(Appendix A, Tables 7 and 8)

Statewide Results

Superintendents who reported allowing public access were asked to select from a number of reasons for the practice. Statewide, at least 80% of superintendents cited four reasons:

- **Positive uses** such as community and team sports events
- **Enhancement of the school's role in the community**
- **Healthful and fun activities** for school-age children
- **Positive after-school activities** for youth

At least 60% of superintendents chose two other reasons:

- **Positive effects on student learning by enhancing physical and mental well-being**
- **Healthful and fun activities for adults and senior citizens**

In contrast, just 5% said they allow access to **mitigate reductions in physical education classes**.

Regional Comparisons

For this question, differences in the regional responses are shown below. Some regions' superintendents were inclined to accept the survey's reasons, whereas others from a few regions chose those reasons less often.

Regional Variation in Reasons to Allow Recreational Use of Schools	<i>State Avg.</i>	<i>Cited most frequently in:</i>	<i>Cited least frequently in:</i>
Positive uses such as community and team sporting events	96%	No. Sacramento Valley, No. Coast, Central Coast, Eastern Sierra	San Diego, Monterey Bay
Enhance school role as a central link for healthy community	91%	No. Coast, Central Coast, Eastern Sierra	SoCAL, Monterey Bay
Healthful and fun activity for children and teens	85%	No. Coast, San Francisco Bay Area	Monterey Bay, Eastern Sierra
Positive alternative for youth during non-school hours	84%	Foothill/Mother Lode, Central Coast	No. Sierra/Cascade, Monterey Bay
Positive effects on student learning, enhancing physical and mental well-being	67%	Eastern Sierra, No. Coast, Central Coast	Monterey Bay,* No. Sierra/Cascade
Healthful and fun activities for adults and senior citizens	64%	North Coast, Sac Metro	San Diego, Foothill/Mother Lode*
Mitigate reductions in physical education classes*	5%	Central Coast,* Eastern Sierra*	San Joaquin Valley,* No. Sierra/Cascade**
* reason was chosen by less than a majority of superintendents			
**reason was not selected at all			

All regions' superintendents gave their highest concurrence to **positive uses such as community and team sports events**. The survey showed unanimous agreement from the Northern Sacramento Valley, North Coast, Central Coast and Eastern Sierra regions. With the exception of the Monterey Bay region, at least 90% of all superintendents selected this reason.

Superintendents in three regions unanimously chose **enhancement of the school's role in the community**. This reason was picked by more than 90% of respondents in all but the Southern California and Monterey Bay regions.

For **healthful and fun activities for children and teens**, responses ranged from 92% in the North Coast and San Francisco Bay regions to 67% from the Monterey Bay region's superintendents.

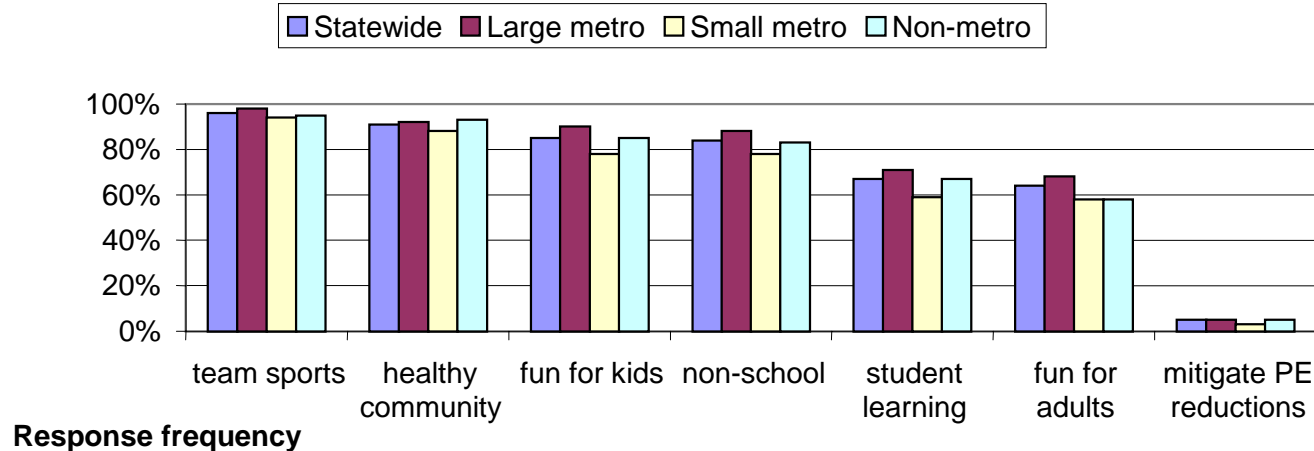
Responses varied for **positive alternatives for youth** from a high of 92% in the Foothill/Mother Lode region to a low of 67% in the Monterey Bay region.

Superintendents displayed a wide (41%) gap in their responses for **positive effects on student learning**. The selection rates ranged from 89% of the Eastern Sierra region’s superintendents to just 48% of those in the Monterey Bay region.

The responses for **activities for adults and seniors**, disclosed a 33% variance between the superintendents of the San Francisco Bay region, at the 79% level, to 46% of those of the Foothill/Mother Lode region.

Superintendents uniformly gave low ratings to **mitigation of reductions in physical education classes** as a rationale for allowing public recreation access at schools. The survey disclosed a greater portion of superintendents in the Eastern Sierra and Central Coast regions chose this reason than those from the other regions.

REASONS TO ALLOW SCHOOL USE FOR RECREATION



Metropolitan Comparisons

The small metropolitan areas’ superintendents responded with the lowest frequency in every case. The closest agreement for all three groups was for a reason shunned by most—**mitigation of reductions in physical education classes**. The large metropolitan areas’ superintendents most frequently supported all reasons *except school role as a central link for a healthy community*. Non-metropolitan area’ superintendents chose that reason more often. Those from large metropolitan areas gave the reasons, **healthful and fun activities for children and teens, positive alternatives during non-school hours, positive effects on student learning, and activities for adults and senior citizens** up to 12% more often than did the others.

3. Reasons Recreation Access to School Facilities is Denied

(Appendix A, Tables 9 and 10)

Statewide Results

The survey asked the relatively few superintendents (3% of all responding) who reported *not* allowing public access to give their reasons for denying recreational access. They provided a variety of explanations for the prohibitions. Nearly two thirds of the superintendents cited reasons **other** than choices in the survey. They provided examples such as insurance

complications, low demand, lack of staff time to coordinate schedules, and wear and tear on facilities from overuse.

The rest of the superintendents who responded picked from the list of specific choices offered by the survey. Their two highest specific categories of response pertained to **management issues** such as crime or liability. Together these factors accounted for 46% of the responses. Two other categories, pertaining to **someone other than the superintendent setting the policy**, accounted for 24% of the responses. **Facility constraints** (costs, availability) precluded access considerations for 23% of the responding districts. One would expect to hear this, given the superintendents' own opinions about crowded and insufficient recreational facilities in their local area. Interestingly, 7% of the responding district superintendents said **no one asked**.

Regional Comparisons

Regional Variation in Reasons to Deny Recreational Use of Schools	<i>State Avg.</i>	<i>Cited most frequently in:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management issues: unwanted or illicit activities, liability or just too much trouble 	46%	Monterey Bay, SoCAL and San Joaquin Valley
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Someone other than the Superintendent decides 	24%	No. Coast, San Francisco Bay Area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facility constraints: costs, availability, etc. 	23%	Monterey Bay, SoCal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No one asked 	7%	Monterey Bay, North Coast

Metropolitan Comparisons

By far, the small metropolitan area superintendents demonstrated the most concern over **management issues**. They were also more inclined than the others to cite **facility constraints**. Large metropolitan area superintendents gave the most responses about **someone other than themselves making the decision**. Non-metropolitan area's superintendents picked **no one asked** more often than the others.

4. School District Partnerships for Recreation

(Appendix A, Tables 11 and 12)

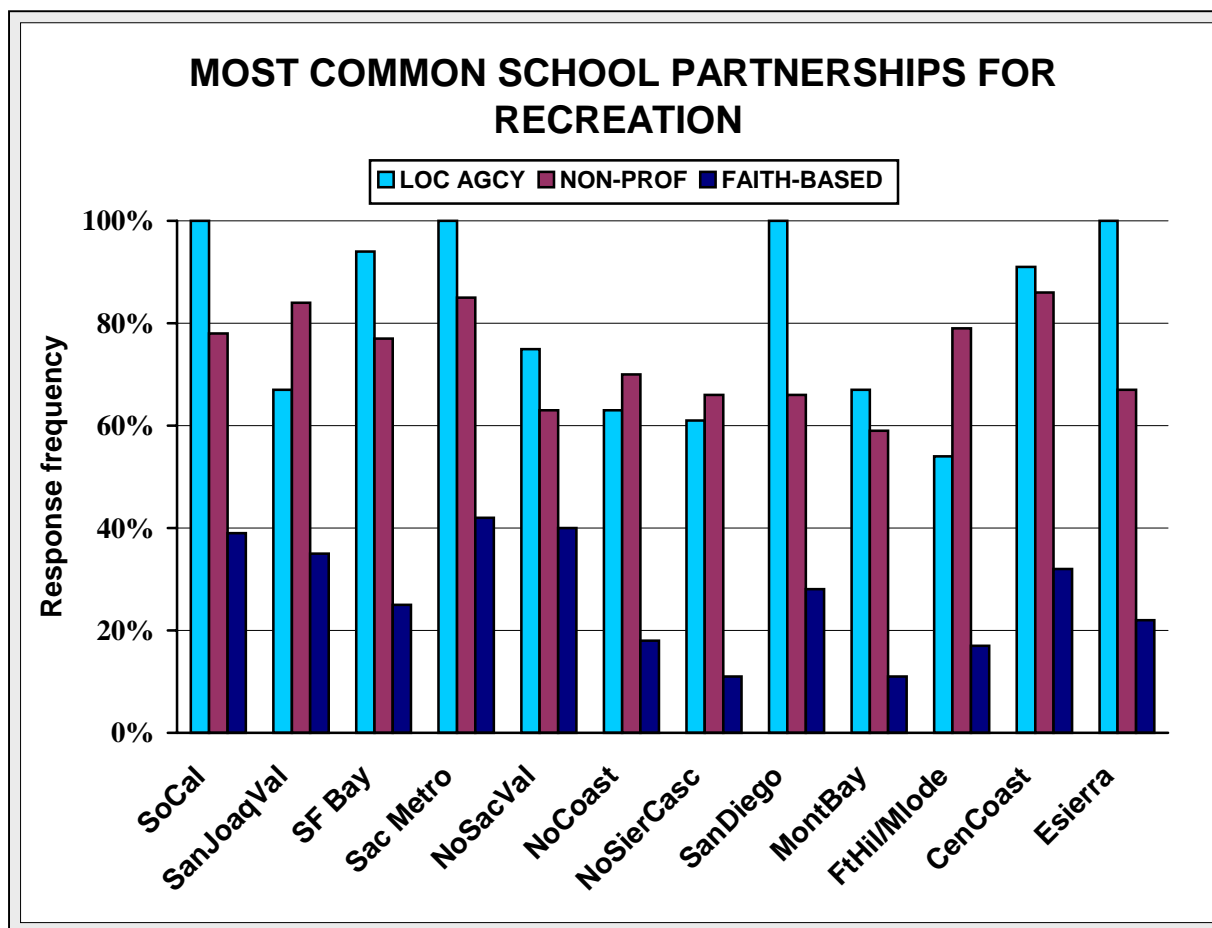
Statewide Results

The survey also asked superintendents about the specific entities or groups that have been partners with school districts in the past two years for the provision of park facilities, recreation programs, special meetings, or events. Nearly all who responded to the survey (94%) answered this question. As might be expected, there were many responses for traditional providers that are other **schools** (17%), **other public entities** (96%), and **community-based organizations** like the Boys & Girls Clubs, soccer leagues and so forth (79%). The most responses cited **local agencies** as partners (86%), followed closely by **community-based organizations** (79%). **Faith-based organizations** were cited at 31%. Cooperation with **state**

and federal agencies was reported in 10% of the responses. Some (6%) replied that they do not have partnership arrangements for recreation.

Regional Results

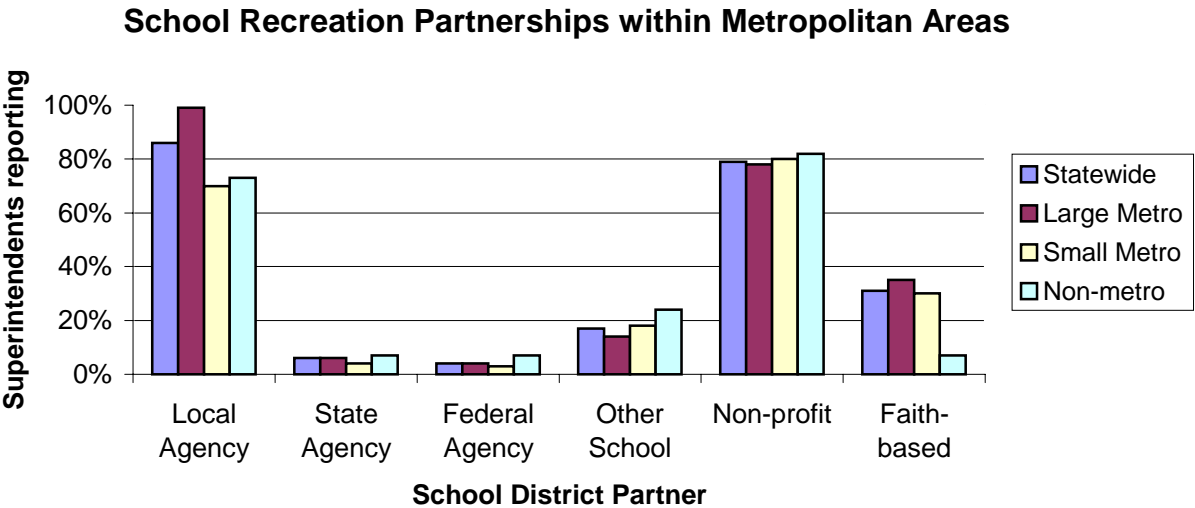
At the regional level, the survey revealed different rates of partnerships with various entities across the spectrum. Though the levels of partnering were consistently high throughout the state, the overall partnership rate varied from highs of 100% for 3 regions to a low of 85% in 1 region. The most common partner (see chart, below) for most regions was a **local agency** other than another school district. Superintendents reported a 100% level for this kind of partnership in four regions: Southern California, Sacramento Metropolitan, San Diego and Eastern Sierra. For four other regions—San Joaquin Valley, North Coast, Northern Sierra/Cascade and Foothill/Mother Lode—superintendents said their most frequent arrangement was with a **non-profit entity**. Partnerships with **faith-based organizations** were cited at levels ranging from a high of 42% for the Sacramento Metropolitan region to a low of 11% in both the Northern Sierra/Cascade and Monterey Bay regions.



Metropolitan Comparisons

For metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas, the survey showed extensive cooperation with other entities, with partnering rates of at least 92%. However, the survey also revealed differences. The responses showed the most variation concerning arrangements with **local agencies and faith-based organizations**.

Nearly all of the large metropolitan area superintendents reported **local agency** partnerships, whereas only 70% of the small metropolitan areas reported such partnerships. For other than large metropolitan areas, partnerships with **non-profit community-based organizations** exceeded those with **local agencies**. Big differences also appeared regarding partnerships with **faith-based organizations**. Some 35% of the large metropolitan area superintendents reported arrangements with **faith-based organizations**, in contrast with just 7% of the non-metropolitan area superintendents who reported these kinds of partnerships.



5. Charges for Use of School Facilities

(Appendix A, Tables 13 and 14)

Statewide Results

For the schools that have agreements allowing outside use, the district superintendents were asked whether there were charges for use of the school facilities. Half of the responding superintendents replied affirmatively. Of the other responses, 27% answered “maybe” and 23% said “no.”

Regional Comparisons

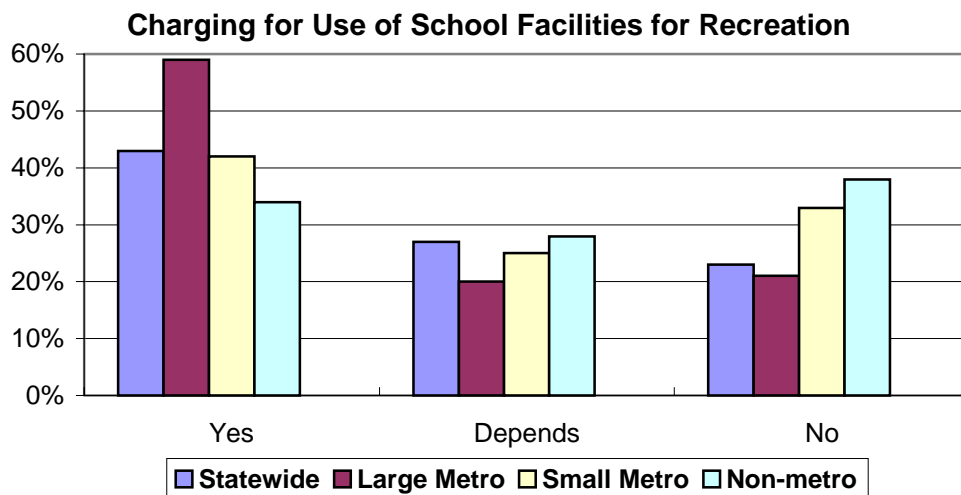
The results from the different regions showed 60% of the Southern California and Central Coast regions claimed use charges. For six regions, between one-fourth and two-fifths of superintendents said the imposition of charges depended on circumstances. The responses ranged as high as 31%, reported by the North Coast region superintendents. No superintendents in the Eastern Sierra region gave this response. There was a range of responses concerning free use of the facilities. At the high end, 60% of the Eastern Sierra region superintendents said use is free. By contrast, free facility use was reported by just 19% of the superintendents from the Southern California region.

Regional Variation in Charging for Recreational Use of Schools	State Avg.	Cited most frequently in:	Cited least frequently in:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, charges are assessed 	43%	Central Coast, Southern California	Northern Sacramento Valley, Northern Sierra-Cascade

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depends. Some schools in the district charge, others do not. Or there are charges for some activities but not all. 	27%	North Coast, Monterey Bay	San Diego, Central Coast (and not at all in Eastern Sierra)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. Charges are not imposed for recreational use. 	23%	Eastern Sierra, North Coast	Southern California, Sacramento Metro

Metropolitan Comparisons

The chart below shows how the different metropolitan area groups responded. For large metropolitan areas, 59% of the superintendents said there are charges when schools are used for recreation. Non-metropolitan area superintendents gave this response at much lower rate—34%. The non-metropolitan area superintendents reported the highest rate of “maybe” answers, at 28%. It exceeded the lowest rate by 8%, given by superintendents from the large metropolitan areas. Free use of facilities also appeared highest within non-metropolitan area responses, at 38%. Their rate was 17% greater than that of the large metropolitan areas.



6. Possibility of Forming an Agreement with a Local Park and Recreation Agency

(Appendix A, Tables 15 and 16)

Statewide Results

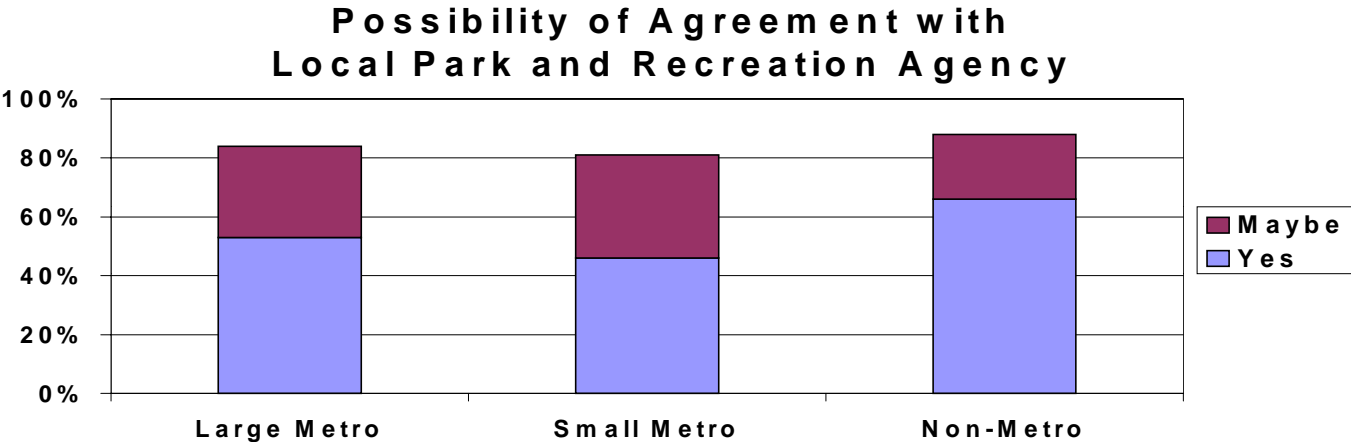
The superintendents showed substantial openness to the idea of forming an agreement with a local park and recreation agency for access to schools. Superintendents from 308 districts without agreements responded to the survey question about whether their district would consider one. Over half (55%) said they would and another 30% said they might. Just 15% of the responses were negative.

Regional Comparisons

At least 69% of superintendents of each region said they would or they might consider forming an agreement with a park and recreation agency. Thirty-one percent in both the San Diego and Monterey Bay regions said no consideration would be given to such an agreement. For the Foothill/Mother Lode and Eastern Sierra regions, though, none ruled out considering an agreement.

Metropolitan Comparisons

In metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas across the state, the superintendents rated the possibility of an agreement being established at over 80%. Non-metropolitan area superintendents indicated the highest rates of intent to form recreation agreements. A full 66% of them said they would seek agreements, versus only 46% from small metropolitan areas. But 35% of the small metropolitan area superintendents said they might consider an agreement, compared with only 22% of non-metropolitan area respondents.



7. Comments About Lack of Local Park and Recreation Opportunities
(Appendix A, Table 17)

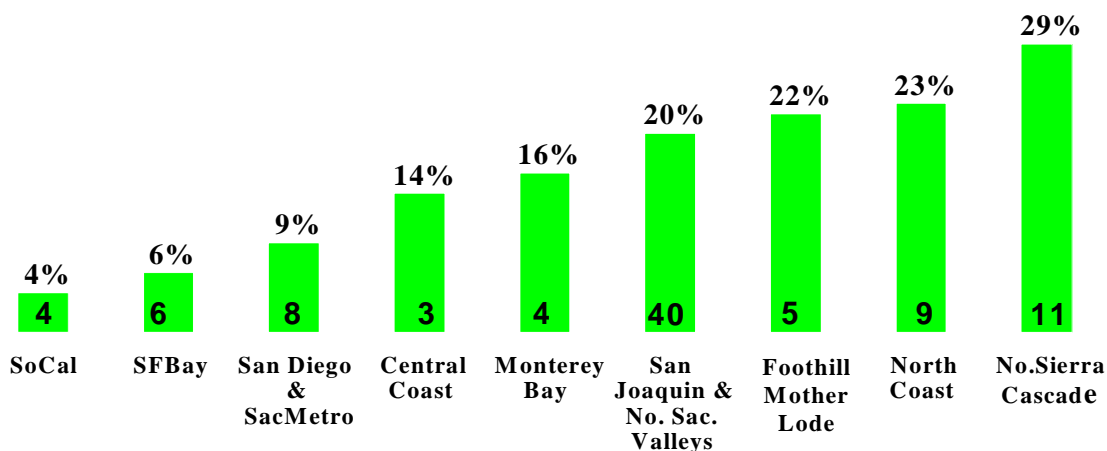
Statewide Results

Of interest, too, were the responses from superintendents who wrote additional remarks in response to the survey. Of 122 such remarks, 93 pertained to local communities that do not have local parks or do not have a public recreation service provider. In those communities, the schools have the only facilities available for recreation purposes. The communities are distributed throughout the state in 38 of the 58 counties.

Regional Comparisons

The superintendents who made these comments represent school districts in all regions except the Eastern Sierra counties. For 5 of the regions, at least 20% remarked that schools presented the only recreation opportunity for communities (see chart below). By far, the San Joaquin Valley region holds the largest number that made these comments.

Percent of Region's Superintendents and Total Number of Superintendents Who Commented about Lack of Recreation



Metropolitan Comparisons

Of the 93 comments about lack of park and recreation services in local areas, 23 came from districts in large metropolitan areas and 35 each were from districts in small metropolitan areas and non-metropolitan areas. In comparison to the entire body of surveys returned those responses represent 6% of the large metropolitan areas, 22% of the small metropolitan areas, and 8% of the non-metropolitan areas.

8. Effect of Partnerships

(Appendix A, Tables 18-21)

Statewide Results

The survey disclosed that, school districts experienced few adverse impacts and some beneficial impacts from partnership arrangements for recreation (appendix A, table 6,). A majority of superintendents reported their capital improvement and operations budgets did not change due to cooperation with other entities for recreation at schools. However most superintendents did report increased personnel hours.

Superintendents reported that facility use increased more than 80% of the time. They also revealed that the amount and diversity of program offerings went up 69% of the time. They noted gains, 43% of the time, in community awareness of the role of the district. They also cited occasional increases in grant funds (33%) and media exposure (27%).

A. Effect of Partnership—Cost factors

Statewide Results

When asked about the partnerships impact on budgets, grants and personnel hours, superintendents reported a mix of impacts. Though most claimed no change to their budgets, 27% of superintendents reported rising costs for capital improvements budgets, as did 33% concerning operations budgets. In a few instances (4%), the costs went down. The

superintendents reported that personnel hours rose most of the time (58%), though there was no change to personnel hours about one-third of the time.

Regional Comparisons

Among the regions, a range of 38%-4% of superintendents said capital improvements budgets rose. Between 42%-15% reported higher budgets for operations, with the exception of one region where the superintendents reported no increase for either budget category.

A majority of superintendents in each region said there was no change in grants received. Yet for every region, some reported that they had received more grants as a result of their recreation partnerships. For those, rates varied from 42% in the San Diego region to 21% in the Monterey Bay region. In three regions, a few superintendents reported loss of grants—Monterey Bay, San Francisco Bay and Southern California.

In all but three regions, a majority of superintendents reported higher personnel hours associated with partnering. But in those three regions—Northern Sacramento Valley, Northern Sierra/Cascade and San Diego—40% or more said personnel hours had increased. Seven in ten of the Southern California region's superintendents claimed increased personnel hours, the highest rate by far. A few superintendents in 5 regions said personnel hours had decreased. About a third of the superintendents reported no change to personnel hours, with a majority of two regions' superintendents stating this.

Metropolitan Comparisons

Among the metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas, the majority of superintendents in all groups reported no change to their capital improvements or operations budgets as well as their receipt of grants. The rate of "no change" responses was highest among non-metropolitan areas, at 76% and 68% for capital improvements and operations budgets, respectively.

Of the superintendents who said costs went up, the most frequent reports of increases came from large metropolitan areas. Between 30%-34% of them said their budgets increased and 64% said personnel hours rose. In contrast, just over half reported personnel cost increases.

For all three groups, a clear majority reported no change for grants received. But between 35% and 27% reported receipt of more grants, with the increased grant rate a bit higher than the statewide average for large metropolitan areas and a bit lower than the average for the small metropolitan areas.

B. Effect of Partnership—Programs

Statewide Results

As might be expected, superintendents uniformly reported that allowing outside users to recreate at schools drove up facility use and enabled expanded recreation program offerings.

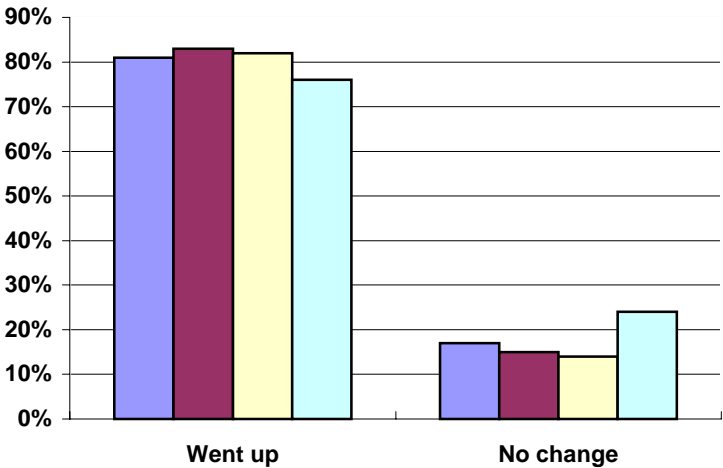
Regional Comparisons

At least three fourths of the superintendents from 7 regions reported greater use of facilities due to partnerships for recreation. At the low end, just 24% of superintendents in the San Diego region reported increased facility use.

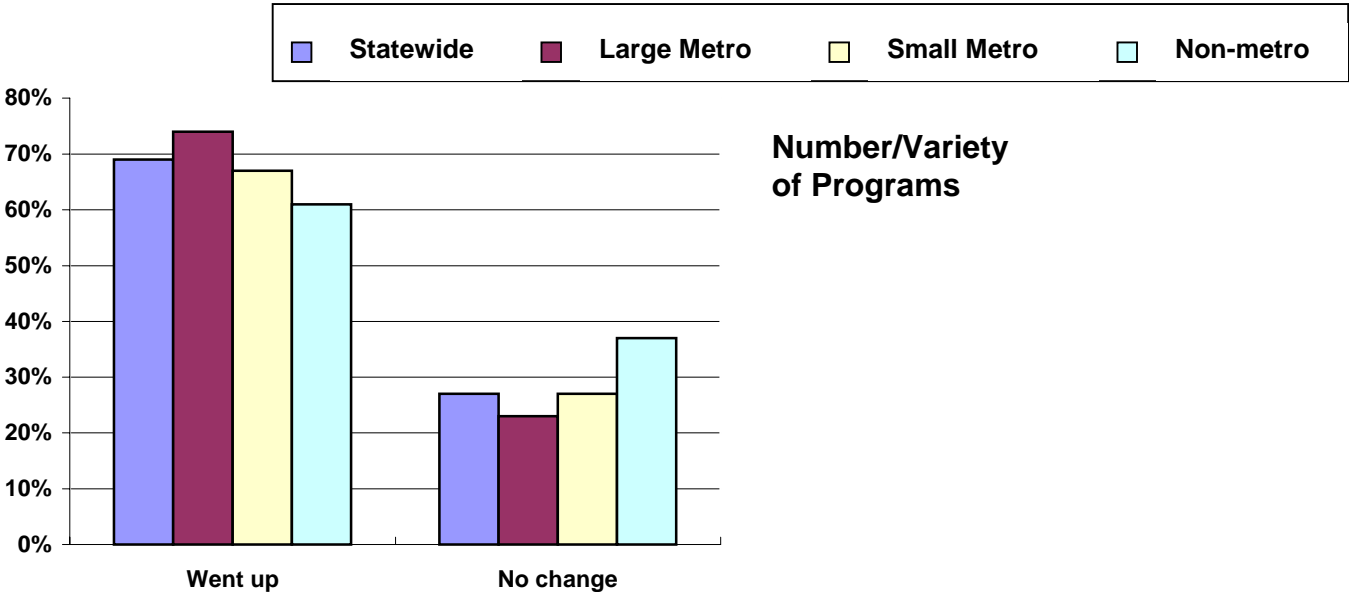
Expanded recreation program offerings resulted according to 75% or more of the superintendents of the Sacramento Metropolitan, San Francisco Bay, Foothill/Mother Lode and Southern California regions. Yet in the Monterey Bay region, less than a majority gave this report. For the Northern Sierra/Cascade and Monterey Bay regions, a majority or near majority of superintendents reported no change to program offerings. But in 3 other regions, only 20% of superintendents stated no change had occurred—the Southern California, Sacramento Metropolitan and Foothill/Mother Lode regions.

Metropolitan Comparisons

As shown in the chart below, large metropolitan area superintendents gave the highest response rates for increased facility use (83%) and programs (74%). Reports of growth in facility use were essentially the same for the small metropolitan areas at 82%, but 7% less of them said their program offerings had increased. About three fourths of non-metropolitan area superintendents responded that facility use had grown, but only 61% reported program expansions and over one-third said there had been no change to program offerings.



Effect of School's Partnerships for Recreation on Facility Use and Program Offerings



Number/Variety of Programs

C. Effect of Partnership—Perception by Community

Statewide Results

Where schools have made agreements with others to facilitate use of schools for recreation, community enthusiasm for this kind of use has generally stayed the same or increased. Very few reported declining community awareness or media exposure as an outcome of their arrangements for non-school recreation. Most superintendents reported no change for both community awareness and media exposure.

Regional Comparisons

For four regions—the Central Coast, San Francisco Bay, Sacramento Metropolitan and San Diego regions—a majority or near majority of superintendents felt that partnering for recreation use of schools improved the awareness of the school district's role in the community. But 60% of superintendents in the Northern Sacramento Valley and Eastern Sierra regions reported there was no change.

Media exposure went up due to partnerships, according to 46% of superintendents of the Northern Sierra/Cascade region and 39% of the Monterey Bay region. As reported by 75% in the Northern Sacramento Valley region and 73% in the San Diego and North Coast regions, agreements with others to facilitate use of schools for recreation did not change media exposure. However, 4 regions' superintendents said media exposure went down for their districts.

Metropolitan Comparisons

The survey showed 33% of superintendents in non-metropolitan areas said community awareness rose, compared to an average of 25% for metropolitan areas. The response rate for non-metropolitan area superintendents claiming no change for community awareness exceeded that of their metropolitan area counterparts by 15%-18%.

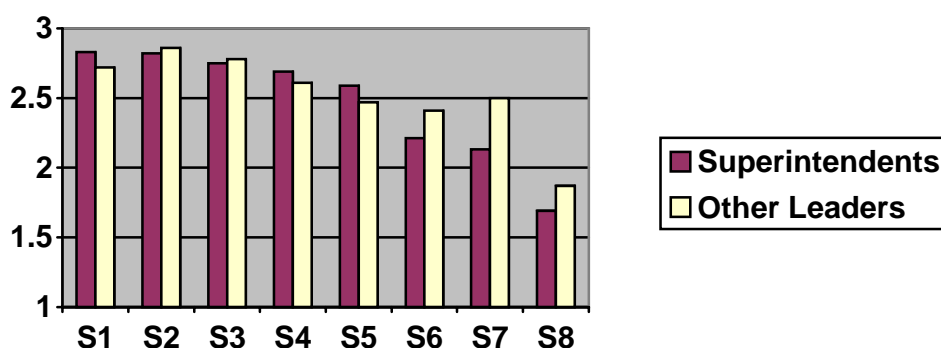
For media exposure, the small metropolitan area superintendents gave the largest "no change" response at 66%, compared to the lowest response rate, provided by 59% of non-metropolitan areas. Non-metropolitan area superintendents reported with 8% more frequency that media exposure went up compared to the responses of the metropolitan areas.

Comparisons with 2002 Government and Business Leaders' Surveys

In early 2002 the Department of Parks and Recreation surveyed the opinions of city mayors, state legislators, chairs of county boards of supervisors, county executive officers and chamber of commerce directors. Those surveys had two groups of questions in common with the survey of school superintendents: 1) perceptions of the residents' sense of values for parks and recreation and 2) the leaders' own opinions of park and recreation facilities and programs. The school superintendents' responses to those questions tended to align with the responses of the other leader groups, though with some differences (appendix 1, tables 22 and 23).

Perception of Residents' Values for Parks and Recreation

3=high value 2=medium value 1=low value



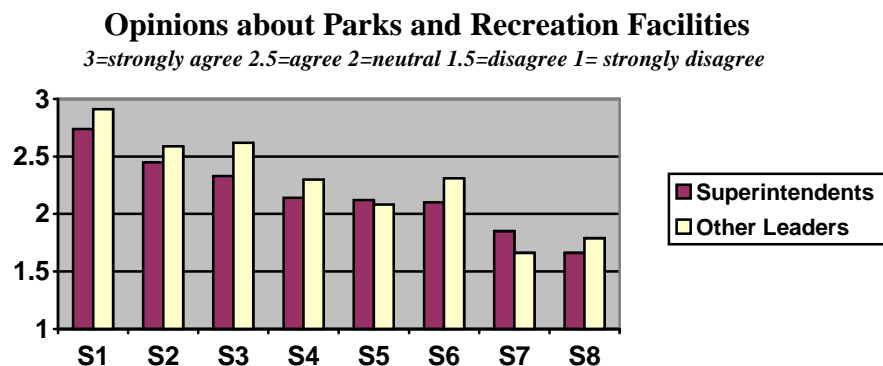
Question: Please indicate your sense of the value parks and recreation programs hold for the residents of your community.	Average Rating	
	Superintendents	Other Leaders
S1. Team Sports The opportunity for team sports and youth activities.	2.83	2.72
S2. Family fun..... Safe, wholesome and fun programs and park facilities that provide for family activities. For example, play areas, fishing piers, and pools.	2.82	2.86
S3. Sense of place..... Strengthening the community image and creating a sense of place.	2.75	2.78
S4. Exercise and personal development..... The opportunity for physical exercise, social and emotional development.	2.69	2.61
S5. After school programs..... The opportunity for after school programs or programs for youth at risk.	2.59	2.47
S6. Cultural celebrations..... Places to celebrate cultural unity/diversity (e.g., Cinco de Mayo festivals)	2.21	2.41
S7. Special populations..... Facilities and programs for special populations – elderly, disabled and low income.	2.13	2.50
S8. Jobs and income..... Creating jobs and generating income for communities and for local businesses.	1.69	1.87

In general, superintendents and other leaders share common beliefs about the values local community residents hold for local parks and recreation programs. The school superintendents however, felt residents placed more importance on statements about:

- **team sports**
- **exercise and personal development**
- **after-school programs**

Superintendents tended to place two statements slightly below the rankings from other leader groups. Those statements involved **family fun** and the community's **sense of place**.

The leaders diverged in their opinions of three other statements. One such statement concerns **cultural celebrations**. All groups assigned a medium value for this statement, but the superintendents' ranking was notably lower. The superintendents' ranking was also lower for the statement about service to **special populations**. They gave this statement a medium value, in contrast to the other leaders, whose higher score indicated a medium-to-high value. Finally, though all groups assigned a below-medium score to the statement about **jobs and income**, the superintendents' ranking was clearly below that given by the other groups.



Question: Following is a list of statements regarding park and recreation facilities. What is your opinion?	Average Rating	
	Supers.	Other Leaders
S1. Quality of life Recreation areas and facilities improve the quality of life.	2.74	2.91
S2. Crime and juvenile delinquency Recreation areas and programs help reduce crime and juvenile delinquency.	2.45	2.59
S3. Property value Recreation areas and facilities increase the value of nearby residential and commercial property.	2.33	2.62
S4. Business location decisions The availability of park facilities and recreation programs plays an important part in the decision of businesses to locate in the area.	2.14	2.30
S5. Crowding at parks Recreation areas and facilities are often too crowded when people want to use them.	2.12	2.08
S6. Local economy Recreation areas and facilities can create jobs and spending in the area, helping its economy.	2.10	2.31
S7. Undesirable people and activities Recreation areas and facilities attract undesirable people and unwanted activities.	1.85	1.66
S8. Number of local facilities There are enough recreation areas and facilities available for convenient use.	1.66	1.79

When asked about their own thoughts, superintendents generally assigned scores similar to those of the other leaders, albeit at lower levels, to three statements concerning:

- **improving of quality of life,**
- **reducing crime and juvenile delinquency,** and
- **improving property values.**

Superintendents also tended to give lower scores for three other statements than did the other leaders. For the statements concerning **influencing the location decisions of businesses** and **helping the economy**, superintendents leaned towards neutrality, whereas the other leaders generally expressed agreement. Superintendents were inclined to disagree with the statement about the existence of **enough local parks**. The other leaders also disagreed, but they tended a bit more towards neutrality.

For two statements, concerning **crowding at parks** and parks as magnets for **undesirable people and activities**, superintendents' scores were higher than those of the other groups. All groups concurred about the former statement. The superintendents' responses to the latter statement indicated disagreement. The other groups tended to express more neutrality.

Summary and Conclusions

This report on the opinions of school district superintendents reveals what these leaders believe are the values of public parks and recreation lands and facilities to the users, to the community and to society. It also shows what superintendents think about joint use and partnerships for recreation. The survey's return rate indicates that the responses have provided a clear picture of superintendents' opinions.

In general, superintendents perceive considerable importance in the recreation facilities and services offered in their communities and recreation role of schools. The survey also shows:

1. Beyond the core education mission of schools, superintendents see value in the use of schools as a place for positive youth activities and as a central link for the community.
2. Superintendents are strongly inclined to make school land and facility assets available for the community in partnership with other entities, most often a local public park and recreation agency.
3. Superintendents' sense of value about parks and recreation and their willingness to make their own facilities available for recreation reinforce the sense of value of park and recreation opportunities held by their constituents.
4. The opinions superintendents hold about parks and recreation are in concert with the opinions of other California leaders—mayors, county officials, legislators and business leaders.
5. Regional variations and differences between large and small metropolitan areas and non-metropolitan areas bear closer scrutiny.
6. For those communities lacking adequate park and recreation services, the superintendents' message is that establishment or improvement of services is needed. The lack of available park and recreation facilities and/or absence of a specifically focused recreation service provider in a variety of locations around the state is a cause for concern. More study is needed in these specific locations to determine whether this involves conscious local decisions, lack of information on how to establish and deliver such services, or some other factor.

Park and recreation service providers can use this material to learn where these decision-makers see benefit and value in the services and facilities they are providing and how they can better articulate their park messages. They can also learn if the perceptions or goals of their agencies are disconnected from what is felt by key individuals whose support is absolutely crucial to the success of the park and recreation programs. By taking a hard look at what leaders believe, agency administrators, board members and other policy leaders affecting the park and recreation profession can act to enhance the sometimes under-appreciated value of local park and recreation facilities and programs.

Appendix A: Tabulated Survey Data

Table 1: Statewide Summary of Superintendents' Perspective on Resident's Values

Question: *Please indicate your sense of the value parks and recreation programs hold for the residents of your district.* (3 points = high value, 2 points = medium value, 1 point = low value)

Potential Value of Parks and Recreation	Response Rate	Average Value	<u>Rank</u>
The opportunity for team sports and youth activities.	64%	2.83	1
Safe, wholesome and fun programs and park facilities that provide for family activities. For example, play areas, fishing piers, and pools.	64%	2.82	2
Strengthening the community image and creating a sense of place.	63%	2.75	3
The opportunity for physical exercise, social and emotional development.	63%	2.69	4
The opportunity for after school programs or programs for youth at risk.	62%	2.59	5
Places to celebrate cultural unity/diversity (e.g., Cinco de Mayo festivals)	62%	2.21	6
Facilities and programs for special populations – elderly, disabled and low income.	61%	2.13	7
Creating jobs and generating income for communities and for local businesses.	60%	1.69	8

**Table 2: Superintendents' Perspective of Residents' Sense of Value for Parks and Recreation:
Regional Average Points and Rankings**

Question: *Please indicate your sense of the value parks and recreation programs hold for the residents of your district.*
(3 points = high value, 2 points = medium value, 1 point = low value)

	The opportunity for team sports and youth activities.		Safe, wholesome and fun programs and park facilities that provide for family activities.		Strengthening the community image and creating a sense of place.		The opportunity for physical exercise, social and emotional development.		The opportunity for after school programs or programs for youth at risk.		Places to celebrate cultural unity and/or diversity.		Facilities and programs for special populations – elderly, disabled and low income.		Creating jobs and generating income for communities and for local businesses.	
	R a n k	Points	R a n k	Points	R a n k	Points	R a n k	Points	R a n k	Points	R a n k	Points	R a n k	Points	R a n k	Points
STATEWIDE	1	2.83	2	2.82	3	2.75	4	2.69	5	2.59	6	2.21	7	2.13	8	1.69
METRO vs. NONMETRO																
Large metro	1	2.89	2	2.83	3	2.75	4	2.74	5	2.63	6	2.24	7	2.17	8	1.67
Small metro	3	2.76	1	2.80	2	2.77	4	2.63	5	2.54	6	2.16	7	2.04	8	1.64
Non-metro	2	2.74	1	2.81	3	2.73	4	2.63	5	2.52	6	2.21	7	2.11	8	1.79
REGIONS																
SoCal	1	2.89	2	2.85	4	2.73	3	2.74	5	2.70	6	2.30	7	2.19	8	1.73
SJValley	2	*2.73	1	2.79	2	*2.73	3	2.62	4	2.50	5	2.17	6	2.02	7	1.60
SFBayArea	1	2.93	2	2.84	3	2.81	4	2.76	5	2.60	7	2.21	6	2.23	8	1.64
SacMetro	1	*2.93	1	*2.93	2	2.81	3	2.72	4	2.61	5	2.17	6	2.09	7	1.80
NoSacValley	1	2.84	2	2.75	4	2.58	3	2.72	5	2.53	6	2.26	7	2.06	8	1.81
NoCoast	3	2.74	2	2.81	1	2.85	4	2.67	5	2.61	6	2.35	7	2.29	8	1.80
NoSierraCasc	2	2.72	1	2.78	3	2.65	4	2.56	5	2.40	6	2.10	7	2.07	8	1.80
SanDiego	1	*2.83	2	2.76	1	*2.83	3	2.63	4	2.60	5	2.17	6	2.04	7	1.41
MontBay	2	2.73	1	2.74	3	2.68	4	2.65	5	2.45	6	2.11	7	1.83	8	1.65
CentCoast	2	2.86	3	2.80	1	2.95	4	2.74	5	2.60	7	2.26	6	2.30	8	1.68
FthillMthLode	2	2.67	1	2.81	4	2.57	3	2.62	5	2.52	7	1.79	6	2.00	8	1.65
EasternSierra	3	2.74	2	*2.86	1	3.00	2	*2.86	2	*2.86	4	2.71	5	2.14	6	2.00

* tie

Table 2a: Metro/Regional Summary of Superintendents Perspective of Resident's Values (The opportunity for team sports and youth activities)

Question: *Please indicate your sense of the value parks and recreation programs hold for the residents of your district. (3 points = high value, 2 points = medium value, 1 point = low value)*

	Responses		Percent assigning points per level of value			Average points
	No.	% of total	High	Medium	Low	
STATEWIDE	655	100	86	10	4	2.83
METRO vs. NONMETRO						
Large Metro	351	54	91	8	1	2.89
Small Metro	174	26	82	13	5	2.76
Non-metro	130	20	81	12	7	2.74
REGION						
SoCal	159	24	90	9	1	2.89
SJValley	147	22	80	12	7	2.73
SFBayArea	99	15	94	5	1	2.93
SacMetro	54	8	93	7	0	2.93
NoSacValley	31	5	77	19	3	2.84
NoCoast	32	5	88	9	3	2.74
NoSierraCasc	32	5	78	16	6	2.72
SanDiego	30	4	86	10	3	2.83
MontBay	22	3	77	18	5	2.73
CentCoast	21	3	91	8	1	2.86
FthillMthLode	21	3	81	5	14	2.67
EasternSierra	7	1	86	14	0	2.74

Table 2b: Metro/Regional Summary of Superintendents Perspective of Resident's Values (Provides safe, wholesome and fun programs and park facilities that provide for family activities)

Question: Please indicate your sense of the value parks and recreation programs hold for the residents of your district. (3 points = high value, 2 points = medium value, 1 point = low value)

	Responses		Percent assigning points per level of value			Average points
	No.	% of total	High	Medium	Low	
STATEWIDE	654	100	85	12	3	2.82
METRO vs. NONMETRO						
Large Metro	350	53	85	12	2	2.83
Small Metro	174	26	84	13	3	2.80
Non-metro	130	20	85	12	4	2.81
REGION						
SoCal	158	24	87	11	2	2.85
SJValley	147	22	84	10	5	2.79
SFBayArea	99	15	87	10	3	2.84
SacMetro	54	8	93	7	0	2.93
NoSacValley	32	5	78	19	3	2.75
NoCoast	32	5	84	13	3	2.81
NoSierraCasc	32	5	84	9	6	2.78
SanDiego	29	4	79	17	3	2.76
MontBay	23	3	74	26	0	2.74
CentCoast	20	3	80	20	0	2.80
FthillMthLode	21	3	81	19	0	2.81
EasternSierra	7	1	86	14	0	2.86

Table 2c: Metro/Regional Summary of Superintendents Perspective of Resident's Values (Strengthens the community image and creates a "sense of place")

Question: Please indicate your sense of the value parks and recreation programs hold for the residents of your district. (3 points = high value, 2 points = medium value, 1 point = low value)

	Responses		Percent assigning points per level of value			Average points
	No.	% of total	High	Medium	Low	
STATEWIDE	651	100	80	17	4	2.75
METRO vs. NONMETRO						
Large Metro	350	54	80	18	3	2.75
Small Metro	172	26	81	15	4	2.77
Non-metro	129	20	79	15	6	2.73
REGION						
SoCal	158	24	77	19	4	2.73
SJValley	145	22	79	14	6	2.73
SFBayArea	99	15	84	13	3	2.81
SacMetro	54	8	83	15	2	2.81
NoSacValley	32	5	68	23	10	2.58
NoCoast	32	5	88	9	3	2.85
NoSierraCasc	32	5	74	16	10	2.65
SanDiego	29	4	83	17	0	2.83
MontBay	22	3	68	32	0	2.68
CentCoast	20	3	95	5	0	2.95
FthillMthLode	21	3	62	33	5	2.57
EasternSierra	7	1	100	0	0	3.00

Table 2d: Metro/Regional Summary of Superintendents Perspective of Resident's Values (The opportunity for physical exercise, social and emotional development)

Question: Please indicate your sense of the value parks and recreation programs hold for the residents of your district. (3 points = high value, 2 points = medium value, 1 point = low value)

	Responses		Percent assigning points per level of value			Average points
	No.	% of total	High	Medium	Low	
STATEWIDE	651	100	73	23	4	2.69
METRO vs. NONMETRO						
Large Metro	348	53	76	22	2	2.74
Small Metro	173	27	69	25	6	2.63
Non-metro	130	20	69	25	6	2.63
REGION						
SoCal	157	24	76	21	3	2.74
SJValley	146	22	69	24	7	2.62
SFBayArea	98	15	77	22	1	2.76
SacMetro	54	8	76	20	4	2.72
NoSacValley	32	5	78	16	6	2.72
NoCoast	33	5	70	27	3	2.67
NoSierraCasc	32	5	63	31	6	2.56
SanDiego	29	4	67	30	3	2.63
MontBay	23	3	70	26	4	2.65
CentCoast	19	3	74	26	0	2.74
FthillMthLode	21	3	67	29	5	2.62
EasternSierra	7	1	86	14	0	2.86

Table 2e: Metro/Regional Summary of Superintendents Perspective of Resident's Values (The opportunity for after school programs or programs for youth at risk)

Question: Please indicate your sense of the value parks and recreation programs hold for the residents of your district. (3 points = high value, 2 points = medium value, 1 point = low value)

	Responses		Percent assigning points per level of value			Average points
	No.	% of total	High	Medium	Low	
STATEWIDE	642	100	68	22	9	2.59
METRO vs. NONMETRO						
Large Metro	345	54	70	23	7	2.63
Small Metro	171	27	67	20	13	2.54
Non-metro	126	20	63	25	11	2.52
REGION						
SoCal	157	24	76	21	3	2.70
SJValley	145	22	69	24	7	2.50
SFBayArea	95	15	77	22	1	2.60
SacMetro	54	8	76	20	4	2.61
NoSacValley	32	5	78	16	6	2.53
NoCoast	31	5	70	27	3	2.61
NoSierraCasc	30	5	63	31	6	2.40
SanDiego	30	4	67	30	3	2.60
MontBay	20	3	70	26	4	2.45
CentCoast	20	3	74	26	0	2.60
FthillMthLode	21	3	67	29	5	2.52
EasternSierra	7	1	86	14	0	2.86

Table 2f: Metro/Regional Summary of Superintendents Perspective of Resident's Values (Provides places to celebrate cultural unity/diversity)

Question: Please indicate your sense of the value parks and recreation programs hold for the residents of your district. (3 points = high value, 2 points = medium value, 1 point = low value)

	Responses		Percent assigning points per level of value			Average points
	No.	% of total	High	Medium	Low	
STATEWIDE	636	100	41	40	20	2.21
METRO vs. NONMETRO						
Large Metro	344	53	40	43	16	2.24
Small Metro	166	27	39	37	23	2.16
Non-metro	126	20	44	33	23	2.21
REGION						
SoCal	156	25	44	43	13	2.30
SJValley	144	23	41	35	24	2.17
SFBayArea	97	15	40	40	20	2.21
SacMetro	54	8	35	49	19	2.17
NoSacValley	31	5	45	35	19	2.26
NoCoast	31	5	58	19	23	2.35
NoSierraCasc	31	5	39	32	29	2.10
SanDiego	29	5	34	48	17	2.17
MontBay	18	3	28	56	17	2.11
CentCoast	19	3	42	42	16	2.26
FthillMthLode	19	3	16	47	37	1.79
EasternSierra	7	1	71	29	0	2.71

Table 2g: Metro/Regional Summary of Superintendents Perspective of Resident's Values (Facilities and programs for special populations - elderly, disabled and low income)

Question: Please indicate your sense of the value parks and recreation programs hold for the residents of your district. (3 points = high value, 2 points = medium value, 1 point = low value)

	Responses		Percent assigning points per level of value			Average points
	No.	% of total	High	Medium	Low	
STATEWIDE	625	100	36	40	24	2.13
METRO vs. NONMETRO						
Large Metro	335	53	37	43	20	2.17
Small Metro	168	27	34	36	30	2.04
Non-metro	122	20	37	38	25	2.11
REGION						
SoCal	151	24	38	42	20	2.19
SJValley	144	23	34	34	32	2.02
SFBayArea	96	15	42	40	19	2.23
SacMetro	53	8	32	45	23	2.09
NoSacValley	31	5	29	48	23	2.06
NoCoast	31	5	45	39	16	2.29
NoSierraCasc	30	5	33	40	27	2.07
SanDiego	26	5	23	58	19	2.04
MontBay	18	3	22	39	39	1.83
CentCoast	20	3	45	40	15	2.30
FthillMthLode	18	3	33	33	33	2.00
EasternSierra	7	1	86	14	0	2.14

Table 2h: Metro/Regional Summary of Superintendents Perspective of Resident's Values (Creates jobs and generates income for the community and for local businesses)

Question: Please indicate your sense of the value parks and recreation programs hold for the residents of your district. (3 points = high value, 2 points = medium value, 1 point = low value)

	Responses		Percent assigning points per level of value			Average points
	No.	% of total	High	Medium	Low	
STATEWIDE	622	100	15	39	46	1.69
METRO vs. NONMETRO						
Large Metro	335	53	13	42	45	1.67
Small Metro	164	27	15	35	51	1.64
Non-metro	123	20	21	37	42	1.79
REGION						
SoCal	153	24	19	35	46	1.73
SJValley	141	22	12	36	52	1.60
SFBayArea	96	15	9	45	46	1.64
SacMetro	51	8	16	49	35	1.80
NoSacValley	31	5	23	35	42	1.81
NoCoast	30	5	20	40	40	1.80
NoSierraCasc	30	5	17	47	37	1.80
SanDiego	27	4	4	33	63	1.41
MontBay	17	3	6	53	41	1.65
CentCoast	19	3	16	37	47	1.68
FthillMthLode	20	3	15	35	50	1.65
EasternSierra	7	1	43	14	43	2.00

Table 3: Statewide Summary of Superintendents' Own Opinions of Parks and Recreation

Question: Following is a list of statements regarding park and recreation facilities. What is your opinion? (3 points = strongly agree, 2.5 points = agree, 2 points = neutral, 1.5 points = disagree, 1 point = strongly disagree)

Statements about Parks and Recreation	Response Rate	Average Value	Rank
Recreation areas and facilities improve the quality of life in our school district.	66%	2.74	1
Recreation areas and programs help reduce crime and juvenile delinquency in my district.	65%	2.45	2
Recreation areas and facilities increase the value of nearby residential and commercial property.	65%	2.33	3
The availability of park facilities and recreation programs plays an important part in the decision of businesses to locate the area served by our school	64%	2.14	4
Recreation areas and facilities are often too crowded when people want to use them.	64%	2.12	5
Recreation areas and facilities can create jobs and spending in our school district, helping its economy.	65%	2.10	6
Recreation areas and facilities attract undesirable people and activities.	65%	1.85	7
There are enough recreation areas and facilities available for convenient use in our school district.	68%	1.66	8

Table 4: Superintendents' Own Opinions: Metro/Non-metro and Regional Average Points and Rankings

Question: Following is a list of statements regarding park and recreation facilities. What is your opinion?

(3 points = strongly agree, 2.5 points = agree, 2 points = neutral, 1.5 points = disagree, 1 point = strongly disagree)

	Recreation areas and facilities improve quality of life		Recreation areas and programs reduce crime & juvenile delinquency		Recreation areas and facilities increase property value		Recreation areas and programs influence location decisions of businesses		Park and recreation areas often too crowded when people want to use them		Recreation areas and facilities create jobs, helping local economy		Recreation areas and facilities attract undesirable people and activities		There are enough public park and recreation areas and facilities for convenient use	
	R a n k	Points	R a n k	Points	R a n k	Points	R a n k	Points	R a n k	Points	R a n k	Points	R a n k	Points	R a n k	Points
STATEWIDE	1	2.74	2	2.45	3	2.33	4	2.14	5	2.12	6	2.10	7	1.85	8	1.66
METRO vs. NONMETRO																
Large metro	1	2.78	2	2.48	3	2.38	4	2.19	5	2.24	6	2.13	7	1.83	8	1.64
Small metro	1	2.71	2	2.45	3	2.31	4	2.18	5	*2.12	5	*2.12	7	1.88	8	1.72
Non-metro	1	2.71	2	2.41	3	2.30	5	2.10	6	2.05	4	2.14	7	1.86	8	1.62
REGIONS																
SoCal	1	2.75	2	2.48	3	2.38	5	2.18	4	2.24	6	2.13	7	1.92	8	1.62
SJValley	1	2.68	2	2.42	3	2.26	4	2.19	5	2.16	6	2.06	7	1.88	8	1.63
SFBayArea	1	2.79	2	2.48	3	2.35	4	2.13	6	2.09	5	2.11	7	1.79	8	1.78
SacMetro	1	2.78	2	2.50	3	2.37	6	2.13	4	2.17	5	2.14	7	1.78	8	1.66
NoSacValley	1	2.76	2	2.43	3	2.35	4	2.26	6	1.84	5	2.11	7	1.79	8	1.59
NoCoast	1	2.70	2	2.58	3	2.28	6	2.02	5	2.05	4	2.16	7	1.92	8	1.67
NoSierraCasc	1	2.70	2	2.35	3	2.20	5	1.93	8	1.73	4	2.00	6	1.77	7	1.75
SanDiego	1	2.88	2	2.53	3	2.42	4	2.23	5	2.31	6	2.08	8	1.78	7	1.35
MontBay	1	2.73	3	2.33	2	2.35	5	2.02	4	2.08	4	2.09	7	1.76	8	1.83
CentCoast	1	2.75	2	2.50	3	2.34	6	1.93	4	2.20	6	2.14	7	1.86	7	1.86
FthillMthLode	1	2.67	3	2.30	2	2.37	6	2.05	4	2.15	5	2.13	7	2.02	8	1.46
EasternSierra	1	2.63	3	2.28	2	2.39	4	2.06	8	1.56	6	1.88	7	1.72	5	1.89

* tie

Table 4a: Metro/Regional Summary of Superintendents own opinions (Such recreation areas and facilities improve the quality of life for residents in our School District)

Question: *Following is a list of statements regarding park and recreation facilities. What is your opinion ?* (3 points = strongly agree, 2.5 points = agree, 2 points = neutral, 1.5 points = disagree, 1 point = strongly disagree)

	Responses		Percent In Agreement		Percent Neutral	Percent In Disagreement		Average points
	No.	% of total	Strongly agree	Agree		Disagree	Strongly disagree	
STATEWIDE	678	100	61	30	5	2	2	2.74
METRO vs. NONMETRO								
Large Metro	363	53	66	28	4	1	1	2.78
Small Metro	178	26	56	34	5	3	2	2.71
Non-metro	137	20	58	30	9	1	2	2.71
REGIONS								
SoCal	167	24	66	26	4	2	2	2.75
SJValley	145	21	57	33	4	3	3	2.68
SFBayArea	102	15	62	34	4	0	0	2.79
SacMetro	55	8	71	18	7	4	0	2.78
NoSacValley	36	5	69	19	8	0	3	2.76
NoCoast	32	5	56	31	9	3	0	2.70
NoSierraCasc	32	5	53	34	13	0	0	2.70
SanDiego	32	4	79	17	3	0	0	2.88
MontBay	24	4	54	38	8	0	0	2.73
FthillMthLode	23	3	52	39	4	0	4	2.67
CentCoast	22	3	55	41	5	0	0	2.75
EasternSierra	8	1	25	75	0	0	0	2.63

Table 4b: Metro/Regional Summary of Superintendents own opinions (These public recreation areas and programs help reduce crime and juvenile delinquency in our School District)

Question: Following is a list of statements regarding park and recreation facilities. What is your opinion? (3 points = strongly agree, 2.5 points = agree, 2 points = neutral, 1.5 points = disagree, 1 point = strongly disagree)

	Responses		Percent In Agreement		Percent Neutral	Percent In Disagreement		Average points
	No.	% of total	Strongly agree	Agree		Disagree	Strongly disagree	
STATEWIDE	670	100	32	36	25	6	2	2.45
METRO vs. NONMETRO								
Large Metro	359	53	33	37	22	6	1	2.48
Small Metro	176	26	30	35	29	5	1	2.45
Non-metro	135	20	28	34	28	5	4	2.41
REGIONS								
SoCal	164	24	34	36	21	8	1	2.48
SJValley	145	21	28	37	31	1	3	2.42
SFBayArea	99	14	28	45	21	4	1	2.48
SacMetro	55	8	40	29	22	9	0	2.5
NoSacValley	34	5	38	24	29	3	6	2.43
NoCoast	32	4	44	31	22	3	0	2.58
NoSierraCasc	31	4	16	45	32	6	0	2.35
SanDiego	32	4	47	20	27	7	0	2.53
MontBay	24	3	29	29	25	13	4	2.33
FthillMthLode	23	3	22	35	30	9	4	2.30
CentCoast	22	3	32	45	14	9	0	2.50
EasternSierra	9	1	0	56	44	0	0	2.28

Table 4c: Metro/Regional Summary of Superintendents own opinions (Such recreation areas and facilities increase the value of nearby residential and commercial property)

Question: Following is a list of statements regarding park and recreation facilities. What is your opinion? (3 points = strongly agree, 2.5 points = agree, 2 points = neutral, 1.5 points = disagree, 1 point = strongly disagree)

	Responses		Percent In Agreement		Percent Neutral	Percent In Disagreement		Average points
	No.	% of total	Strongly agree	Agree		Disagree	Strongly disagree	
STATEWIDE	673	100	21	36	33	7	3	2.33
METRO vs. NONMETRO								
Large Metro	360	53	23	38	31	6	3	2.38
Small Metro	177	26	22	31	35	10	2	2.31
Non-metro	136	20	17	35	38	5	4	2.30
REGIONS								
SoCal	165	24	27	35	28	7	3	2.38
SJValley	146	21	21	29	34	12	4	2.26
SFBayArea	100	14	18	42	33	5	2	2.35
SacMetro	55	8	24	33	35	7	0	2.37
NoSacValley	33	5	21	45	21	6	6	2.35
NoCoast	32	4	6	47	44	3	0	2.28
NoSierraCasc	32	4	16	25	50	3	6	2.20
SanDiego	32	4	27	30	43	0	0	2.42
MontBay	24	3	21	33	42	4	0	2.35
FthillMthLode	23	3	26	35	30	4	4	2.37
CentCoast	22	3	18	41	32	9	0	2.34
EasternSierra	9	1	11	56	33	0	0	2.39

Table 4d: Metro/Regional Summary of Superintendents own opinions (The availability of park and recreation facilities and recreation programs plays an important part in the decision of businesses to locate in the area served by our School District)

Question: Following is a list of statements regarding park and recreation facilities. What is your opinion? (3 points = strongly agree, 2.5 points = agree, 2 points = neutral, 1.5 points = disagree, 1 point = strongly disagree)

	Responses		Percent In Agreement		Percent Neutral	Percent In Disagreement		Average points
	No.	% of total	Strongly agree	Agree		Disagree	Strongly disagree	
STATEWIDE	665	100	11	27	46	10	6	2.14
METRO vs. NONMETRO								
Large Metro	356	53	13	26	45	10	5	2.19
Small Metro	175	26	8	31	50	7	4	2.18
Non-metro	134	20	10	22	44	13	10	2.10
REGIONS								
SoCal	165	24	13	29	44	8	5	2.18
SJValley	144	21	10	34	43	8	5	2.19
SFBayArea	98	14	13	21	49	11	5	2.13
SacMetro	56	8	11	26	46	11	6	2.13
NoSacValley	34	5	18	32	41	3	6	2.26
NoCoast	31	4	6	10	68	13	3	2.02
NoSierraCasc	30	4	7	23	37	17	17	1.93
SanDiego	30	4	17	27	43	13	0	2.23
MontBay	24	3	4	21	63	0	13	2.02
FthillMthLode	22	3	14	18	41	18	9	2.05
CentCoast	22	3	0	14	68	9	9	1.93
EasternSierra	9	1	0	56	11	22	11	2.06

Table 4e: Metro/Regional Summary of Superintendents own opinions (These public park and recreation areas are often too crowded when people want to use them)

Question: Following is a list of statements regarding park and recreation facilities. What is your opinion? (3 points = strongly agree, 2.5 points = agree, 2 points = neutral, 1.5 points = disagree, 1 point = strongly disagree)

	Responses		Percent In Agreement		Percent Neutral	Percent In Disagreement		Average points
	No.	% of total	Strongly agree	Agree		Disagree	Strongly disagree	
STATEWIDE	666	100	18	27	26	21	8	2.12
METRO vs. NONMETRO								
Large Metro	360	54	21	32	22	21	5	2.24
Small Metro	173	26	14	26	29	24	6	2.12
Non-metro	133	20	15	17	32	17	19	2.05
REGIONS								
SoCal	166	24	24	31	19	22	4	2.24
SJValley	142	20	17	28	31	18	6	2.16
SFBayArea	100	14	12	29	29	25	5	2.09
SacMetro	54	8	19	31	22	20	7	2.17
NoSacValley	35	5	3	20	37	23	17	1.84
NoCoast	31	4	23	16	23	26	13	2.05
NoSierraCasc	30	4	7	10	37	17	30	1.73
SanDiego	30	4	29	32	19	10	10	2.31
MontBay	24	3	8	42	17	25	8	2.08
FthillMthLode	23	3	17	22	39	17	4	2.15
CentCoast	22	3	32	18	14	32	5	2.20
EasternSierra	9	1	0	11	22	33	33	1.56

Table 4f: Metro/Regional Summary of Superintendents own opinions (These recreation areas and facilities create jobs in my community, helping its economy)

Question: Following is a list of statements regarding park and recreation facilities. What is your opinion? (3 points = strongly agree, 2.5 points = agree, 2 points = neutral, 1.5 points = disagree, 1 point = strongly disagree)

	Responses		Percent In Agreement		Percent Neutral	Percent In Disagreement		Average points
	No.	% of total	Strongly agree	Agree		Disagree	Strongly disagree	
STATEWIDE	670	100	10	24	51	10	6	2.10
METRO vs. NONMETRO								
Large Metro	359	53	7	27	51	11	4	2.13
Small Metro	176	26	11	18	54	10	7	2.12
Non-metro	135	20	14	21	45	10	10	2.14
REGIONS								
SoCal	165	24	10	27	47	12	5	2.13
SJValley	146	21	9	21	52	9	9	2.06
SFBayArea	100	14	7	22	60	8	3	2.11
SacMetro	53	7	9	30	42	17	2	2.14
NoSacValley	35	5	17	11	57	6	9	2.11
NoCoast	32	4	9	28	47	16	0	2.16
NoSierraCasc	32	4	13	28	25	16	19	2.00
SanDiego	32	4	3	17	73	7	0	2.08
MontBay	23	3	9	22	57	4	9	2.09
FthillMthLode	23	3	13	17	57	9	4	2.13
CentCoast	21	3	14	24	48	5	10	2.14
EasternSierra	8	1	0	25	38	25	13	1.88

Table 4g: Metro/Regional Summary of Superintendents own opinions (These recreation areas and facilities attract undesirable people and their unwanted activities)

Question: Following is a list of statements regarding park and recreation facilities. What is your opinion? (3 points = strongly agree, 2.5 points = agree, 2 points = neutral, 1.5 points = disagree, 1 point = strongly disagree)

	Responses		Percent In Agreement		Percent Neutral	Percent In Disagreement		Average points
	No.	% of total	Strongly agree	Agree		Disagree	Strongly disagree	
STATEWIDE	673	100	3	24	29	30	14	1.85
METRO vs. NONMETRO								
Large Metro	359	53	3	23	29	30	15	1.83
Small Metro	176	26	4	24	27	32	12	1.88
Non-metro	138	20	1	25	31	27	15	1.86
REGIONS								
SoCal	166	24	4	27	30	27	13	1.92
SJValley	146	21	3	25	31	28	13	1.88
SFBayArea	101	14	2	22	29	27	21	1.79
SacMetro	54	8	2	20	19	50	9	1.78
NoSacValley	34	5	6	18	26	29	21	1.79
NoCoast	31	4	0	26	39	29	6	1.92
NoSierraCasc	32	4	0	22	28	31	19	1.77
SanDiego	30	4	0	20	33	30	17	1.78
MontBay	25	3	0	28	16	36	20	1.76
FthillMthLode	23	3	4	35	35	13	13	2.02
CentCoast	22	3	5	18	32	36	9	1.86
EasternSierra	9	1	0	11	22	67	0	1.72

Table 4h: Metro/Regional Summary of Superintendents own opinions (There are enough park and recreation areas and facilities available for convenient use within our District)

Question: Following is a list of statements regarding park and recreation facilities. What is your opinion? (3 points = strongly agree, 2.5 points = agree, 2 points = neutral, 1.5 points = disagree, 1 point = strongly disagree)

	Responses		Percent In agreement		Percent Neutral	Percent In disagreement		Average points
	No.	% of total	Strongly agree	Agree		Disagree	Strongly disagree	
STATEWIDE	697	100	10	19	4	29	39	1.66
METRO vs. NONMETRO								
Large Metro	366	52	8	20	3	31	38	1.64
Small Metro	184	26	11	22	3	27	36	1.72
Non-metro	147	21	12	14	5	26	44	1.62
REGIONS								
SoCal	168	24	8	20	3	29	41	1.62
SJValley	153	22	8	19	3	31	39	1.63
SFBayArea	103	15	9	25	6	33	27	1.78
SacMetro	54	8	11	17	0	37	35	1.66
NoSacValley	37	5	11	16	3	22	49	1.59
NoCoast	38	5	11	21	3	24	42	1.67
NoSierraCasc	32	4	22	6	13	19	41	1.75
SanDiego	31	4	0	13	3	26	58	1.35
MontBay	26	3	19	23	0	19	38	1.83
FthillMthLode	24	3	8	4	8	29	50	1.46
CentCoast	22	3	14	36	0	9	41	1.86
EasternSierra	9	1	11	22	0	67	0	1.89

Table 5: Allowing Use of School Facilities for Recreation --- All Superintendents		
Question: <i>Do schools in your District allow access to grounds and facilities, such as play fields, basketball courts and multi-purpose rooms for community recreation activities, programs, special events and community meetings during non-school hours?</i>	Responses	
	No.	%
• Yes, allowed throughout district	672	93
• Allowed at some district schools but not all	29	4
• Not allowed	22	3

Table 6: Metro/Regional Summary of Percent of Superintendents' Responses to Question Concerning Allowing Use of School Facilities for Recreation				
	Responses			
	number	yes	Some schools but not all	no
STATEWIDE	723	93%	4%	3%
METRO vs. NONMETRO				
Large metro	372	95%	4%	1%
Small metro	194	90%	5%	5%
Non-metro	157	92%	4%	4%
REGION				
SoCal	171	93%	6%	1%
SJValley	159	90%	4%	6%
SFBayArea	101	97%	2%	1%
SacMetro	54	98%	2%	0%
NoSacValley	40	97%	3%	0%
NoCoast	37	93%	2%	5%
NoSierraCasc	38	90%	5%	5%
SanDiego	33	91%	6%	3%
MontBay	27	100%	0%	0%
FthillMthLode	24	88%	12%	0%
CentCoast	20	90%	9%	1%
EasternSierra	8	89%	11%	0%

Table 7: Reasons to Allow Public Access to School Facilities for Recreation --- All Superintendents

Question: <i>If yes, we are interested in knowing why your District/schools allows public access during non-school hours. Please check <u>all</u> applicable responses.</i>	Responses	
	No.	%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive uses such as community events, team sporting events, etc. 	684	96
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance school's role as central link for healthy community 	642	91
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthful and fun activities for children and teens 	610	85
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive alternatives for youth during non-school hours 	600	84
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive effects on student learning by enhancing physical and mental well-being 	476	67
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthful and fun activities for adults and senior citizens 	456	64
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To mitigate reductions in physical education classes 	34	5

Table 8: Metro/Regional Summary of Percent of Superintendents' Responses to Question Concerning Reasons to Allow Public Access to School Facilities for Recreation

REASONS:	Positive uses such as community and team sporting events	Enhance school role as central link for healthy community	Healthful and fun activity for children and teens	Positive alternative for youth during non school hours	Positive effects on student learning, enhancing physical and mental well-being	Healthful and fun activities for adults and senior citizens	Mitigate reductions in physical education classes
STATEWIDE	96%	91%	85%	84%	67%	64%	5%
METRO vs. NONMETRO							
Large metro	98%	92%	90%	88%	71%	68%	5%
Small metro	94%	88%	78%	78%	59%	58%	3%
Non-metro	95%	93%	85%	83%	67%	58%	5%
REGIONS							
SoCal	98%	86%	85%	85%	67%	62%	5%
SJValley	95%	93%	79%	80%	63%	57%	2%
SFBayArea	97%	94%	92%	90%	72%	79%	7%
SacMetro	97%	91%	89%	89%	67%	67%	7%
NoSacValley	100%	98%	90%	88%	63%	75%	5%
NoCoast	100%	100%	92%	84%	76%	63%	8%
NoSierraCasc	98%	98%	83%	75%	58%	61%	0%
SanDiego	90%	90%	87%	84%	71%	55%	3%
MontBay	88%	82%	67%	67%	48%	56%	4%
FthilMthLode	96%	92%	88%	92%	58%	46%	8%
CentCoast	100%	100%	91%	91%	76%	67%	10%
EasternSierra	100%	100%	78%	89%	89%	78%	11%

Table 9: Reasons to Deny Public Access to School Facilities for Recreation --- All Superintendents

Question: <i>If access is <u>not</u> allowed at school grounds or facilities operated by your District, why? Please check <u>all</u> applicable responses.</i>	Responses	
	No.	%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible unwanted or illicit activities--loitering, vandalism, graffiti, etc. 	26	20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liability concerns 	26	20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each school principal decides 	25	19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost for facility maintenance or personnel (cleaning, locking, etc.) 	20	15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No facilities (existing facilities are in use for other school 	11	8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No one asked 	9	7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too much trouble 	8	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific school board policy about this 	6	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other 	85	65

Table 10: Metro/Regional Summary of Percent of Superintendents' Responses to Question Concerning Reasons to Deny Public Access to School Facilities for									
REASONS:	Possible unwanted or illicit activities	Liability concerns	Each school principal decides	Cost for facility maintenance or personnel	No facilities	No one asked	Too much trouble	School board policy	Other
STATEWIDE	20%	20%	19%	15%	8%	7%	6%	5%	65%
METRO vs. NONMETRO									
Large metro	22%	20%	27%	17%	8%	5%	5%	7%	53%
Small metro	31%	26%	19%	24%	7%	9%	12%	5%	45%
Non-metro	4%	14%	4%	7%	11%	11%	4%	0%	75%
REGIONS									
SoCal	31%	28%	25%	28%	8%	3%	3%	8%	53%
SJValley	33%	28%	17%	19%	8%	8%	11%	6%	50%
SFBayArea	0%	0%	33%	0%	8%	0%	0%	0%	13%
SacMetro	18%	27%	18%	9%	9%	18%	0%	9%	36%
NoSacValley	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
NoCoast	0%	25%	0%	0%	25%	50%	0%	0%	50%
NoSierraCasc	0%	13%	0%	25%	25%	0%	13%	0%	75%
SanDiego	0%	0%	20%	20%	0%	20%	20%	0%	80%
MontBay	33%	33%	33%	0%	0%	56%	33%	56%	33%
FthilMthLode	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
CentCoast	0%	0%	33%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	67%
EasternSierra	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Table 11: School Districts' Partnerships for Recreation --- All Superintendents		
Question: <i>If applicable, <u>with whom</u> has your School District partnered in the past <u>two</u> years to provide facilities, use of school fields or other facilities during non-school hours. Please check <u>all</u> applicable responses.</i>	Responses	
	No.	%
Public entities other than school districts		
• Local agencies	584	86
• State agencies	40	6
• Federal agencies	29	4
• Non-profit community-based organizations	541	79
• Faith-based organizations	214	31
• Other school districts	115	17
• Other (e.g. for-profit sector)	17	2
• No partnerships for these services	42	6

Table 12: Metro/Regional Summary of Percent of Superintendents' Responses to Question Concerning School District's Partnerships for Recreation

PARTNER:	Public entity				Community-based Org		Other	None
	local	state	fed	Other school district	Non-profit	Faith-based		
STATEWIDE	86%	6%	4%	17%	79%	31%	2%	6%
METRO vs. NONMETRO								
Large metro	99%	6%	4%	14%	78%	35%	3%	4%
Small metro	70%	4%	3%	18%	80%	30%	1%	8%
Non-metro	73%	7%	7%	24%	82%	7%	3%	9%
REGIONS								
SoCal	100%	5%	2%	11%	78%	39%	2%	5%
SJValley	67%	6%	3%	20%	84%	35%	2%	8%
SFBayArea	94%	6%	4%	12%	77%	25%	4%	5%
SacMetro	100%	5%	5%	25%	85%	42%	0%	0%
NoSacValley	75%	3%	5%	20%	63%	40%	0%	8%
NoCoast	63%	10%	3%	23%	70%	18%	0%	15%
NoSierraCasc	61%	3%	5%	24%	66%	11%	3%	8%
SanDiego	100%	13%	6%	16%	66%	28%	16%	3%
MontBay	67%	0%	7%	7%	59%	11%	4%	11%
FthilMthLode	54%	0%	4%	8%	79%	17%	0%	0%
CentCoast	91%	0%	0%	14%	86%	32%	0%	9%
EasternSierra	100%	44%	44%	33%	67%	22%	0%	0%

Table 13: Charging for Use of School Facilities for Recreation --- All Superintendents

Question: <i>If schools in your district have agreements allowing outside uses, is there a charge for use of the school facilities?</i>	Responses	
	No.	%
• Yes	274	50%
• Maybe	151	27%
• No	127	23%

Table 14: Metro/Regional Summary of Percent of Superintendents' Responses to Question Concerning Charging for Use of School Facilities for Recreation

	Responses			
	number	yes	no	maybe
STATEWIDE	552	43%	23%	27%
METRO vs. NONMETRO				
Large metro	303	59%	21%	20%
Small metro	142	42%	33%	25%
Non-metro	107	34%	38%	28%
REGIONS				
SoCal	144	60%	19%	21%
SJValley	111	42%	30%	28%
SFBayArea	79	54%	24%	22%
SacMetro	45	58%	20%	22%
NoSacValley	31	26%	52%	23%
NoCoast	29	38%	31%	31%
NoSierraCasc	25	28%	48%	24%
SanDiego	26	58%	27%	15%
MontBay	21	43%	29%	29%
FthilMthLode	16	50%	25%	25%
CentCoast	20	60%	25%	15%
EasternSierra	5	40%	60%	0%

Table 15: Possibility of Forming Agreement for Use of School Facilities for Recreation --- All Superintendents

Question: <i>If schools in your district do not have an agreement with a local recreation and park agency or department, do you believe your District would consider forming an agreement to allow access for recreation activities, use of school fields or other facilities during non-school hours?</i>	Responses	
	No.	%
• Yes	170	55
• Maybe	92	30
• No	46	15

Table 16: Metro/Regional Summary of Percent of Superintendents' Responses to Question Concerning Possibility of Forming Agreement for Use of School Facilities for Recreation

	Responses			
	number	yes	maybe	no
STATEWIDE	308	55%	30%	15%
METRO vs. NONMETRO				
Large metro	128	53%	31%	16%
Small metro	91	46%	35%	11%
Non-metro	89	66%	22%	15%
REGIONS				
SoCal	61	49%	34%	16%
SJValley	86	44%	35%	21%
SFBayArea	38	66%	29%	4%
SacMetro	15	67%	20%	13%
NoSacValley	14	50%	36%	14%
NoCoast	25	76%	16%	8%
NoSierraCasc	19	58%	26%	16%
SanDiego	13	38%	31%	31%
MontBay	13	46%	23%	31%
FthilMthLode	15	73%	27%	0%
CentCoast	6	83%	0%	17%
EasternSierra	3	60%	40%	0%

Table 17: Superintendents Commenting on Lack of Parks or Park and Recreation Programs in Local Communities Served by School Districts

Region	SoCAL	SF Bay Area	San Diego	Sacramen to Metro	San Joaquin Valley	Northern Sacramento Valley
No.	7	6	3	5	32	8
% of region	4	6	9	9	20	20
Region	North Coast	Monterey Bay	Cent Coast	No Sierra Cascade	Foothill/ Mother Lode	<i>Total such comments: 93 of 112 surveys returned with comments</i>
No.	9	4	3	11	5	
% of region	23	16	14	29	22	

Table 18: Effect of school districts' partnerships for recreation --- all Superintendents

Question: <i>What has been the overall effect of the partnership activities on the following aspects of your District's operation during the past <u>two</u> years? Choose <u>one</u> response for each item.</i>	No. of Responses	% Went Up	% Went Down	% No Change	% Not Sure
• Capital improvement budget	546	27%	4%	64%	5%
• Operations budget	559	33%	9%	55%	3%
• Grants received	493	33%	1%	61%	5%
• Personnel hours	569	58%	2%	37%	3%
• Facility usage	605	81%	1%	17%	1%
• Number/variety of programs	580	69%	1%	27%	3%
• Community aware of agency role	562	43%	0%	45%	12%
• Media exposure	519	27%	1%	63%	90%

Table 19: Metro/Regional Summary of Percent of Superintendents' Responses to Question Concerning Effect of school districts' partnerships for recreation --- Cost Factors

Responses:	No.	% Went Up	% Went Down	% No Change	% Not Sure
<i>a. Capital improvement budget</i>					
STATEWIDE	546	27	4	64	5
METRO vs. NONMETRO					
Large metro	312	30	5	59	6
Small metro	138	26	2	66	6
Non-metro	96	19	4	76	1
REGIONS					
SoCal	143	31	4	58	6
SJValley	118	27	3	65	5
SFBayArea	86	36	8	50	6
SacMetro	48	17	2	71	10
NoSacValley	23	4	0	91	4
NoCoast	25	20	0	76	4
NoSierraCasc	19	16	5	79	0
SanDiego	28	29	4	68	0
MontBay	17	29	6	59	6
FthilMthLode	19	21	5	74	0
CentCoast	16	38	6	56	0
EasternSierra	4	0	0	100	0
<i>b. Operations budget</i>					
STATEWIDE	559	33	9	55	3
METRO vs. NONMETRO					
Large metro	319	34	12	50	4
Small metro	143	36	5	56	3
Non-metro	97	26	4	68	0
REGIONS					
SoCal	145	39	10	47	4
SJValley	122	37	4	57	2
SFBayArea	87	36	11	49	3
SacMetro	50	32	14	48	6
NoSacValley	25	20	4	72	4
NoCoast	25	20	8	72	0
NoSierraCasc	21	24	0	76	0
SanDiego	27	15	15	70	0
MontBay	18	22	17	56	6
FthilMthLode	19	42	5	53	0
CentCoast	16	38	12	50	0
EasternSierra	4	0	25	75	0

Table 19: continued					
Responses:	No.	% Went Up	% Went Down	% No Change	% Not Sure
<i>c. Grants received</i>					
STATEWIDE	493	33	1	61	5
METRO vs. NONMETRO					
Large metro	278	35	2	57	6
Small metro	124	27	0	67	5
Non-metro	91	33	0	64	3
REGIONS					
SoCal	130	38	3	55	5
SJValley	106	28	0	67	0
SFBayArea	75	36	4	56	7
SacMetro	42	26	0	64	14
NoSacValley	23	35	0	52	13
NoCoast	26	38	0	62	0
NoSierraCasc	18	22	0	78	0
SanDiego	26	42	0	58	0
MontBay	14	21	7	57	14
FthilMthLode	17	24	0	76	0
CentCoast	11	27	0	73	0
EasternSierra	5	40	0	60	0
<i>d. Personnel hours</i>					
STATEWIDE	569	58	2	37	3
METRO vs. NONMETRO					
Large metro	320	64	3	30	3
Small metro	149	53	1	43	3
Non-metro	100	52	2	45	1
REGIONS					
SoCal	151	70	2	25	3
SJValley	124	55	2	43	1
SFBayArea	85	53	5	39	3
SacMetro	49	63	4	29	4
NoSacValley	25	40	0	48	12
NoCoast	25	64	0	36	0
NoSierraCasc	23	43	0	57	0
SanDiego	27	48	0	52	0
MontBay	17	59	0	35	6
FthilMthLode	21	58	0	42	0
CentCoast	17	59	6	35	0
EasternSierra	5	60	0	20	20

Table 20: Metro/Regional Summary of Percent of Superintendents' Responses to Question Concerning Effect of school districts' partnerships for recreation --- Facility Use and Number/Variety of Recreation Programs

Responses:	No.	% Went Up	% Went Down	% No Change	% Not Sure
<i>a. Facility Usage</i>					
STATEWIDE	605	81	1	17	1
METRO vs. NONMETRO					
Large metro	338	83	1	15	2
Small metro	155	82	1	14	2
Non-metro	112	76	0	24	0
REGIONS					
SoCal	158	84	1	13	2
SJValley	125	85	1	14	1
SFBayArea	93	81	1	17	1
SacMetro	51	78	0	18	4
NoSacValley	28	64	0	32	4
NoCoast	28	82	0	18	0
NoSierraCasc	27	70	0	30	0
SanDiego	29	24	0	5	0
MontBay	22	73	0	23	4
FthilMthLode	21	81	0	19	0
CentCoast	18	100	0	0	0
EasternSierra	5	60	0	40	0
<i>b. Number/Variety of Programs</i>					
STATEWIDE	580	69	1	27	3
METRO vs. NONMETRO					
Large metro	325	74	0	23	3
Small metro	147	67	1	27	5
Non-metro	108	61	1	37	2
REGIONS					
SoCal	153	75	1	20	5
SJValley	122	70	1	25	3
SFBayArea	87	75	0	25	0
SacMetro	51	76	0	20	4
NoSacValley	27	56	0	41	3
NoCoast	29	66	0	34	0
NoSierraCasc	24	50	0	50	0
SanDiego	28	64	0	32	4
MontBay	21	43	0	48	9
FthilMthLode	20	75	0	20	5
CentCoast	13	69	0	23	8
EasternSierra	5	60	0	40	0

Table 21: Metro/Regional Summary of Percent of Superintendents' Responses to Question Concerning Effect of school districts' partnerships for recreation --- Perception by Community

Responses:	No.	% Went Up	% Went Down	% No Change	% Not Sure
<i>a. Community Awareness of Agency Role</i>					
STATEWIDE	562	43	0	45	12
METRO vs. NONMETRO					
Large metro	323	45	0	41	14
Small metro	142	44	0	44	12
Non-metro	97	33	1	59	7
REGIONS					
SoCal	145	42	1	42	14
SJValley	119	46	0	44	10
SFBayArea	85	48	0	36	15
SacMetro	52	48	0	39	13
NoSacValley	25	28	0	60	12
NoCoast	28	50	0	36	14
NoSierraCasc	25	28	0	48	28
SanDiego	27	48	0	44	7
MontBay	17	29	0	53	18
FthilMthLode	20	35	0	50	15
CentCoast	14	57	0	36	7
EasternSierra	5	20	0	60	20
<i>b. Media Exposure</i>					
STATEWIDE	519	27	1	63	9
METRO vs. NONMETRO					
Large metro	279	26	1	63	10
Small metro	139	24	1	66	9
Non-metro	101	33	1	59	7
REGIONS					
SoCal	131	25	1	63	11
SJValley	115	23	2	67	8
SFBayArea	71	30	0	60	10
SacMetro	45	27	2	62	9
NoSacValley	24	13	4	75	8
NoCoast	26	27	0	73	0
NoSierraCasc	24	46	0	46	8
SanDiego	26	19	0	73	8
MontBay	18	39	0	50	11
FthilMthLode	19	32	0	63	5
CentCoast	15	33	0	53	13
EasternSierra	5	20	0	40	40

Table 22: Superintendents' Sense of Residents' Values vs. Other Government and Business Leaders

Question: *Following is a list of statements regarding park and recreation facilities. What is your opinion?*
(3 points = high value, 2 points = medium value, 1 point = low value)

	Mayors	State Legis	County Supes	County Execs	Chamber of Comm	Avg. of others	School Supes
The opportunity for team sports and youth activities.	2.81	2.84	2.59	2.56	2.78	2.72	2.83
Safe, wholesome and fun programs and park facilities that provide for family activities. For example, play areas, fishing piers, and pools.	2.86	2.87	2.93	2.83	2.8	2.86	2.82
Strengthening the community image and creating a sense of	2.84	2.78	2.82	2.64	2.8	2.78	2.75
The opportunity for physical exercise, social and emotional development.	2.78	2.67	2.55	2.73	2.61	2.61	2.69
The opportunity for after school programs or programs for youth at risk.	2.56	2.64	2.45	2.18	2.51	2.47	2.59
Places to celebrate cultural unity/diversity (e.g., Cinco de Mayo festivals).	2.45	2.51	2.46	2.2	2.42	2.41	2.21
Facilities and programs for special populations – elderly, disabled and low income.	2.54	2.45	2.54	2.58	2.38	2.5	2.13
Creating jobs and generating income for communities and for local businesses.	1.76	1.85	1.89	1.95	1.91	1.87	1.69

Table 23: Superintendents' Own Opinions vs. Other Government and Business Leaders

Question: *Following is a list of statements regarding park and recreation facilities. What is your opinion?* (3 points = strongly agree, 2.5 points = agree, 2 points = neutral, 1.5 points = disagree, 1 point = strongly disagree)

	Mayors	State Legis	County Supes	County Execs	Chamber of Comm	Avg. of others	School Supes
Recreation areas and facilities improve the quality of life in the area.	2.89	2.99	2.89	2.93	2.85	2.91	2.74
Recreation areas and programs help reduce crime and juvenile delinquency in the area.	2.7	2.73	2.46	2.44	2.61	2.59	2.45
Recreation areas and facilities increase the value of nearby residential and commercial property.	2.64	2.83	2.46	2.61	2.58	2.62	2.33
The availability of park facilities and recreation programs plays an important part in the decision of businesses to locate in the	2.22	2.46	2.36	2.21	2.26	2.3	2.14
Recreation areas and facilities are often too crowded when people want to use them.	2.16	2.23	2.04	1.96	2.05	2.08	2.12
Recreation areas and facilities can create jobs and spending in the area, helping its economy.	2.2	2.36	2.21	2.38	2.38	2.31	2.1
Recreation areas and facilities attract undesirable people and activities.	1.71	1.47	1.68	1.71	1.75	1.66	1.85
There are enough recreation areas and facilities available for convenient use in the area.	1.91	1.53	1.57	1.75	2.19	1.79	1.66

Appendix B: Regions, Regional Characteristics, Survey Data

The surveys were distributed to all 1,043 of California's public school districts. A total of 726 districts responded, representing a strong return rate (70%) of the districts statewide. Surveys were returned from districts in 57 of 58 counties. The return rates from districts in 42 counties varied from 50% to 90%. There were 8 counties having district responses in the 90%-100% range. All superintendents responded to the survey in 5 counties:

- Alpine County—2 of 2 districts
- Colusa County—5 of 5 districts
- Plumas County—2 of 2 districts
- San Francisco—2 of 2 districts
- Sierra County—2 of 2 districts

Of the 8 counties, the other 3 counties have numerous districts:

- San Bernardino County—33 of 34 districts (97% return)
- Orange County—26 of 28 districts (93% return) and
- Ventura County—19 of 21 districts (91% return)

The rate of returns was less than 50% for districts in 7 counties:

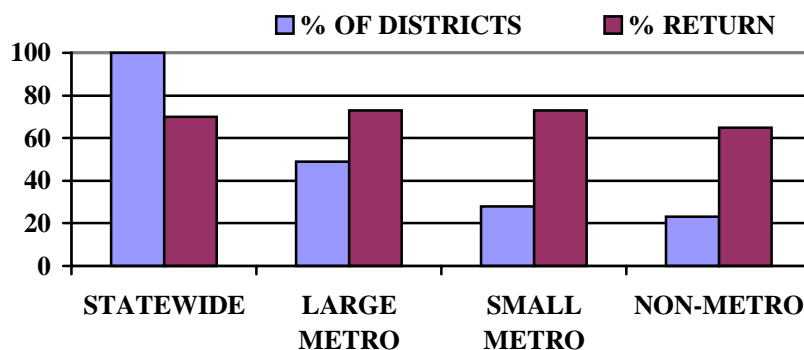
- Tehama—9 of 19 districts (47% return)
- Shasta—12 of 26 districts (46% return)
- Marin—9 of 20 districts (45% return)
- Sutter—5 of 13 districts (39% return)
- San Benito—4 of 12 districts (33% return)
- Mono—1 of 3 districts (33% return)
- Modoc—1 of 4 districts (25% return)

Profile of Districts – Urban and Rural Areas

California is a highly urbanized state. Of the 726 responding districts, 78% (569 districts) reported that their districts were located in a county that the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines as a metropolitan area county. The OMB considers a county to be metropolitan if 1) it has either one or more central cities of at least 50,000 population or is part of a Census Bureau-defined urbanized area with a total population equal to or greater than 100,000 or 2) if it is economically linked to a core metropolitan area such as with commuting patterns or metropolitan characteristics like population density or population growth. (U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/sdp/view.asp?f=rural/97002/>).

School Districts in the Large Metropolitan Areas. Based on 2000 Census population numbers, 34 of 58 counties in California fit the OMB definition of a metropolitan county. Those counties are home to nearly all (97%) of the state's population. The 803 school districts in the metropolitan counties host more than 5.8 million school-age children, or 96% of all enrollments.

SURVEY RETURN RATES



In the group of responding districts, 51% (373 districts) reported their districts were located in a county in a large metropolitan area having a population of 1 million or more as defined by OMB. There are 21 counties in large metropolitan areas in California. They are served by 510 school districts. These counties, listed below, contain 85% of the population of California and 83% of the California public school population:

Large Metropolitan Area Counties:

Southern CA metro counties

Los Angeles (pop. 9,519,338)
 Orange (pop. 2,846,289)
 San Bernardino (pop. 1,709,434)
 Riverside (pop. 1,545,387)
 Ventura (pop. 753,197)

San Diego area metro county

San Diego (pop. 2,813,833)

Sacramento area metro counties

Sacramento (pop. 1,223,499)
 Placer (pop. 248,399)
 Yolo (pop. 168,660)
 El Dorado (pop. 156,299)

Bay Area metro counties

Santa Clara (pop. 1,682,585)
 Alameda (pop. 1,443,741)
 Contra Costa (pop. 948,816)
 San Francisco (pop. 776,733)
 San Mateo (pop. 707,161)
 Sonoma (pop. 458,614)
 Solano (pop. 394,542)
 Santa Cruz (pop. 255,602)
 Marin (pop. 247,289)
 Napa (pop. 124,279)

Fresno area metro county

Fresno (pop. 799,407)

(population data from CA Dept. of Finance for 2000)

The response rate from those in these large metropolitan area counties was 73%. Of the 510 districts in these counties, survey forms were received from 373 superintendents. The returns reasonably represent the opinions of large metropolitan area superintendents. The number of responses from the large metropolitan area superintendents, at 51% of all responses, was greater than the large metropolitan area districts' share (36%) of all districts statewide. But the proportion of responses was considerably less than the large metropolitan area counties' share of the state's population and the state's public school population.

School Districts in the Small Metropolitan Areas. The remaining 13 metropolitan counties, listed below, are in urbanized areas that have fewer than 1 million residents. Of the superintendents who returned surveys in the smaller metropolitan area counties, 74% (158 districts) reported that their districts were in urban areas, 22% (46 districts) said their districts were in suburban areas and 4% (9 districts) stated their districts were in rural areas. The 13 counties are served by 293 school districts. Nearly 4 million people live in those counties (12% of the population of

California) with almost 800 thousand of the residents enrolled in the public schools (13% of the California public school population).

Small Metropolitan Area Counties:

Kern (pop. 661,645)	Merced (pop. 210,554)
San Joaquin (pop. 563,598)	Butte (pop. 203,171)
Stanislaus (pop. 446,997)	Shasta (pop. 163,256)
Monterey (pop. 401,762)	Madera (pop. 123,109)
Santa Barbara (pop. 399,347)	Sutter (pop. 78,930)
Tulare (pop. 368,021)	Yuba (pop. 60,219)
San Luis Obispo (pop. 246,681)	

(population data from CA Dept. of Finance for 2000)

Superintendents from 213 out of the 293 school districts in these small metropolitan area counties returned the survey forms. This is a 73% rate of return. The returns provide a clear representation of the opinions of small metropolitan area superintendents. The number of responses from the small metropolitan area superintendents, at 29% of all responses, is comparable to the small metropolitan area districts' share (28%) of all districts statewide. But the responses well exceeded the small metropolitan area counties' share of the state's population (12%) and the state's public school population (13%).

School Districts in Non-metropolitan Areas. Most (61%) of the superintendents who responded (444 districts) said their districts were located in rural/agricultural areas. This number includes districts in both metropolitan and non-metropolitan counties, as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. OMB considers a county to be non-metropolitan if it is outside the boundaries of metropolitan areas and has no cities with as many as 50,000 residents. The OMB's approach to defining non-metropolitan areas is a widely accepted measure for understanding rural issues (Rural Policy Research Institute, <http://www.rupri.org/>).

Of all 1,043 districts, 23% (240 districts) are located in the state's 24 non-metropolitan area counties as follows:

Non-Metropolitan Area Counties:

Adjacent to a large metro area and containing a city of at least 10,000 residents

Imperial (pop. 142,361)

Mendocino (pop. 86,265)

Lake (pop. 58,309)

San Benito (pop. 53,234)

Adjacent to a large metro area and not containing a city of at least 10,000 residents

Nevada (pop. 92,033)

Amador (pop. 35,100)

Colusa (pop. 18,804)

Adjacent to a small metro area and containing a city of at least 10,000 residents

Kings (pop. 129,461)

Tehama (pop. 56,039)

Adjacent to a small metro area and not containing a city of at least 10,000 residents

Tuolumne (pop. 54,501)

Plumas (pop. 20,824)

Calaveras (pop. 40,554)

Lassen (pop. 33,828)

Glenn (pop. 26,453)

Mariposa (pop. 17,130)

Trinity (pop. 13,022)

Sierra (pop. 3,555)

Not adjacent to a metro area and containing a city of at least 10,000 residents

Humboldt (pop. 126,518)

Not adjacent to a metro area and containing a town of 2,500 – 9,999 residents

Siskiyou (pop. 44,301)

Mono (pop. 12,853)

Del Norte (pop. 27,507)

Inyo (pop. 17,945)

Modoc (pop. 9,449)

Not adjacent to a metro area and not containing a town of at least 2,500 residents

Alpine (pop. 1,208)

Survey responses were received from 156 superintendents out of the 240 school districts in these non-metropolitan area counties. This is a 65% rate of return. The returns plainly represent the opinions of non-metropolitan area superintendents. The number of responses from the non-metropolitan areas, at 22% of all responses, roughly mirrored the non-metropolitan area's share (23%) of all districts statewide. But the responses far exceeded the non-metropolitan counties' share of the state's population (3%) and the state's public school population (3%).

Profile of Districts – Regional Aspects

Within the large geographic area of California there are several regions of mutual local interest. Some of the regions are recognized in statutes concerning broad public policy areas such as transportation or housing. Others are less formally constituted. The regions vary widely. California's two largest multi-county regions are the Southern California and San Francisco Bay regions. The Southern California region, with 6 counties and 200 cities, and the San Francisco Bay, with 9 counties and nearly 100 cities, are also the second and fourth largest metropolitan areas in the nation. (California Association of Councils of Governments, <http://www.calcog.org/cogs.calcog.htm>). At the other end of the spectrum are rural regions of the state with generally large land areas and relatively small populations.

For purposes of this report, the superintendent's responses have been regionally aggregated as follows:

REGION	COUNTIES	RESPONSE RATE vs. REGION
Southern California	Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, Imperial	83%
Bay Area	San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano, Napa, Sonoma, Marin	63%
San Diego	San Diego	74%
Sacramento Metro	Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado, Yolo, Sutter, Yuba	72%
San Joaquin Valley	San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Madera, Merced, Kings, Fresno, Tulare, Kern	72%
Northern Sacramento Valley	Colusa, Butte, Glenn, Tehama, Shasta	51%
North Coast	Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Lake	64%
Monterey Bay Area	Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito	51%
Central Coast	San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara	67%
Northern Sierra-Cascade	Trinity, Siskiyou, Modoc, Lassen, Plumas	56%
Foothills/Mother Lode	Sierra, Nevada, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Mariposa	66%
Eastern Sierra	Alpine, Mono, Inyo	69%

Within the overall response rate of 70%, there were majority-to-very high levels of response to the survey from all regions (see table, above). Four of the regions had very high response rates that strongly represent the regional superintendents' views, those surveys were returned by 420 superintendents (76% of the 550 districts in the regions) in the counties of the Southern California, San Diego, San Joaquin Valley, and Sacramento Metropolitan regions. Those regions' share of all returns, 59%, is in greater proportion than the 53% of the state's public school districts found in those regions. Those regions support 77% of the state's enrolled students, a slightly greater share than that of the regions' population as a whole vs. the statewide population (73%).

Slightly lower rates of response, in the 60% range, were obtained from Superintendents in the counties comprising 5 regions: Eastern Sierra, Foothills/Mother Lode, Central Coast, North Coast, and San Francisco Bay. These rates of response reasonably represent the views of these 5 regions' superintendents. Responses were received from 202 (64%) of the 318 districts in these regions. This is a rate well above the 31% of the state's public school districts found in those regions. Those regions support 20% of the state's enrolled students, a lesser share than the regions' portion (24%) of the statewide population.

The lowest rates of response, although still reflecting the opinions from a majority of districts in each region, were observed from superintendents in the counties of 3 regions: Northern Sierra/Cascade, Monterey Bay Area, and Northern Sacramento Valley. Responses were received from 103 Superintendents, representing 53% of the 196 districts in these regions. This is a greater proportion than the 19% of the state's public school districts found in those regions. Those regions collectively support 4% shares of both the state's enrolled students and the statewide population.

Table of School District Characteristics and Survey Responses by Region

Data sources: CA Dept. of Finance (population), CA Dept. of Education (school districts and enrollment)

REGION	# POP (%)	# SCH DISTS (%)	# ENROLL (%)	SURVEY RSPNSE COUNT	% RETURN	
					VS DISTS IN REGION	VS ALL RSPNSES
SoCal	16,516,006 (48.8%)	206 (19.8%)	3,047,820 (50.4%)	171	83.0%	23.6%
SFBA	6,783,760 (20.0%)	172 (16.5%)	979,920 (16.2%)	108	62.8%	14.9%
SJoaqVal	3,302,792 (9.8%)	223 (21.4%)	731,624 (12.1%)	161	72.2%	22.2%
SDiego	2,813,833 (8.3%)	43 (4.1%)	488,377 (8.1%)	32	74.4%	4.4%
SacMetro	1,936,006 (5.7%)	78 (7.5%)	364,579 (6.0%)	56	71.8%	7.7%
MontBA	710,598 (2.1%)	49 (4.7%)	124,448 (2.1%)	25	51.0%	3.4%
NSacVal	467,723 (1.4%)	79 (7.6%)	86,101 (1.4%)	40	50.6%	5.5%
CenCoast	646,028 (1.9%)	33 (3.2%)	102,962 (1.7%)	22	66.7%	3.0%
NCoast	298,599 (.9%)	63 (6.0%)	51,550 (.9%)	40	63.5%	5.5%
Fthl/MLode	242,873 (.7%)	35 (3.4%)	38,226 (.6%)	23	65.7%	3.2%
NSierCasc	121,424 (.4%)	68 (6.5%)	20,623 (.3%)	38	55.9%	5.2%
ESierra	32,006 (.1%)	13 (1.2%)	5694 (.1%)	9	69.2%	1.2%

Appendix C: Survey Instrument



September 18, 2002

Department of Parks and Recreation

Survey of California School Superintendents

Your sense of the value of park facilities and recreational programs in your community

<Responses will be confidential>

1. In which county is your School District located? _____
 - How many schools are in your District? _____ High _____ Middle/Junior _____ Elementary _____ Other
 - How would you describe your District? <please check all applicable responses>
 - ☐ Urban ☐ Suburban ☐ Rural/agricultural area ☐ Manufacturing/industrial ☐ Other: _____
 2. Do schools in your District allow access to grounds and facilities, such as play fields, basketball courts and multi-purpose rooms for community recreation activities, programs, special events and community meetings during non-school hours? ☐ Yes ☐ Some of our schools; not all of them ☐ No
 - A. If yes, we are interested in knowing why your District/schools allows public access during non-school hours.
<Please check all applicable responses>
 - ☐ To enhance the school's role as a central link for a healthy community
 - ☐ For positive uses such as community events, team sporting events, meetings, and other similar activities
 - ☐ For healthful and fun activities for children and teens
 - ☐ For healthful and fun activities for adults and senior citizens
 - ☐ For positive alternatives for youth during non-school hours
 - ☐ For the positive effects on student learning by enhancing their physical and mental well-being
 - ☐ As a way of mitigating reductions in physical education classes
 - ☐ Other: _____
 - B. If access is not allowed at school grounds or facilities operated by your District, why?
<Please check all applicable responses>
 - ☐ Each school principal makes the decision to allow school facilities to be used by community groups during non-school hours
 - ☐ Concern for potentially unwanted or illicit activities, such as loitering, vandalism, graffiti, or crime
 - ☐ Liability concerns
 - ☐ Increase cost for facility maintenance or personnel (e.g., locking of facility, clean-up, security, etc.)
 - ☐ Too much trouble to manage
 - ☐ We don't have facilities available (e.g., classrooms are already being used for other school purposes such as music lessons, day care programs or meetings or our school(s) do not have facilities available, such as a multi-purpose room or play fields)
 - ☐ No one asked
 - ☐ School board policy prohibits access
 - ☐ Other: _____
3. If schools in your District do not have an agreement with a local recreation and park agency or department, do you believe your District would consider forming an agreement to allow access for recreation activities, use of school fields or other facilities during non-school hours? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No ☐ Explain: _____
 - If schools in your District have agreements allowing outside uses, is there a charge for the use of the school facilities? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No ☐ Don't know ☐ Explain: _____
 4. If applicable, with whom has your School District partnered in the past two years to provide park facilities, recreation programs and special meetings or events? <please check all applicable responses>

Other school districts that might offer these sort of activities	Faith-based organizations
Governmental park and recreation agencies or department	Other local governmental agency
State government departments (e.g., DPR, DWR)	No partnerships for these sort of services
Federal government programs (e.g., NPS, BOR)	Other: _____
Non-profit community-based organizations (e.g., Boys & Girls Clubs, scouts, 4-H, soccer leagues)	

5. What has been the overall effect of the partnership activities on the following aspects of your District's operation during the past two years? *(choose one response for each item)*

Increase Decrease No change Not sure Not applicable

Capital improvement budget

Operations budget

Grants received

Personnel hours

Facility usage

Number and variety of programs

Community awareness of agency's role

Media exposure

Other: _____

6. Please indicate your perspective of the value which local parks and recreation agency programs hold for the students and their families of your school District.

High Medium Low
Value Value Value

- Strengthens the community image and creates a 'sense of place'
- Creates jobs and generates income for the community and for local businesses
- Provides safe, wholesome and fun programs and parks facilities for family activities, e.g., play areas, sport fields and courts, community centers and pools
- Provides the opportunity for physical exercise, social, and emotional development
- Provides places to celebrate cultural unity/diversity (e.g., Cinco de Mayo festivals)
- The opportunity for team sports and youth sporting activities
- Facilities and programs for special populations – elderly, disabled and low income
- The opportunity for after school programs or programs for at risk youth

7. Following is a list of statements regarding local agency park and recreation facilities. What is your opinion?

Strongly Moderately Neither Moderately Strongly
Agree Agree Agree or Disagree Disagree
Disagree

- There are enough public park and recreation areas and facilities available for convenient use within our school District
- These public recreation areas and facilities are often too crowded when people want to use them
- These recreation areas and programs help reduce crime and juvenile delinquency in our school District
- Such recreation areas and facilities improve the quality of life for the residents of our school District
- These recreation areas and facilities create jobs in my community, helping its economy
- Such recreation areas and facilities increase the value of nearby residential and commercial property
- These recreation areas and facilities attract undesirable people and their unwanted activities
- The availability of park and recreation facilities and recreation programs plays an important part in the decision of businesses to locate in the area served by our school District

Comments: _____

Please fax both pages to **(916) 653-4458**

If you have questions, please contact Laura Westrup at lwestr@parks.ca.gov, call (916) 651-8691
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